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IFRA '94 recap: Europe adopts Windows, new systems abound, retrieving  
images. (includes related articles on Partner von dem Druck's innovative  
drum scanner and an acknowledgment to Apple for the use of its QuickTake  
digital camera)

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In retrospect, the 1994 IFRA show was notable in having no hot issues, no major announcements, no big surprises, no notable technology themes or marketing trends. A boring show? Hardly. To the contrary, it could be called the show in which an industry climbed out of recession. We recall last year, when the late Martin Dann, at that time managing director of QED, stated, "This is an industry riding the crest of a slump." Dann was good at pinpointing trends, and we miss his honesty and humor, and we wonder what he would have said about this year's show.

We think most people would agree that the slump is over; that most of Europe is investing in systems and printing equipment again. Many newspapers sent large parties to IFRA to see the prepress products and to report what they should buy. And they weren't merely representing Europe. We wondered if Times Media in South Africa might have stopped publishing for the week because of the number of senior executives that journeyed to Munich for the Oct. 4-7 show.

While there weren't any key developments that made us sit up and say, "This was an important theme," or "This was the hot product of the show," there were many areas in which we saw threads emerging as things to note, perhaps worth tabulating in a summary discussion of the show.

Watching Windows. Perhaps the key thread, and one that must worry Apple, was the rapid increase in Windows applications since last year. While few organizations contemplate the use of Windows applications for handling graphics in any form, as a client workstation in editorial and advertising systems, it has become the standard. In fact, we only recall finding one new application being shown using a Macintosh instead of a pc as the client.

Even for page makeup, there is an increasing use of Xpress under Windows. Among the companies showing systems using Windows were AFP, Atex, Cicero, Cybervision, GB Techniques, ESE, Funkinform, Harris, Hyphen, ISGI, Mediasystemen, Multicom, Quark for QPS, Sysdeco, Unisys, URW and Wilkenson.

Pagination. As a pagination tool, Xpress is appearing more often in European editorial systems. It previously had been used mainly in UK-developed systems (besides P.Ink from Germany and Malardata from Sweden). Now we are seeing more vendors offer Xpress, although it usually is as an alternative to another pagination approach.

In Europe, there are still many home-grown pagination systems -- far more than there are in the U.S. -- but Xpress is catching up with the alternatives.

It is interesting that in Europe there is an alternative to Xpress, the Advent 3B2 system from the UK, which has never been successful in the U.S. (Nor have the other challengers that have taken their pokes at the leader.) We have always thought 3B2 provided an attractive option for high-end pagination applications, and are glad to see that some Europeans, particularly in Germany, agree.

Editing software. Not too different from the situation with pagination, Europe hasn't fallen so quickly for the use of a standard word processor as part of an editorial system. In the U.S., it is almost becoming a prerequisite for system development that Microsoft Word for Windows be available for editing and Xpress for pagination. Few European

developers have followed the same holy grail. In fact, we were surprised to see so many proprietary editing programs either hanging on from past glory days or even introduced as new developments.

But there were some new advocates of Word, including GBT in its Mets system, Mediasystemen in its Uniq offering and Atex in its Prestige. CCI also showed nice progress in its integration of Word into its new editorial environment.

New systems. There was no dearth in introduction of new systems. Atex replaced its former PPEdit with Prestige, ostensibly as an new editorial system for Germany and other parts of Europe, but we see it as just as suitable for the U.S.

GBT's Mets was one of the highlights of the show with its radical approach to how an editorial system should look.

Funkinform unveiled a major improvement in replacing its dos system with a Windows one. It is particularly notable for its impressive speed -- not necessarily expected in a Windows world.

There were other new editorial systems. Delta Information Systems reverted to the past to drag out some proprietary features from earlier products. MarkStein, in the KPS booth, was one of several exhibitors using 3B2 for pagination. Apt Systems of the UK resurrected some of the industry's past in unveiling its latest product. (Remember the team that brought us PagePlanner, arguably the first desktop page makeup program, in spite of what history books will remind us about Paul Brainerd's role as sire? Who really needed a mouse, a gui and interactive wysiwyg?) And Mactive showed the beginnings of an editorial system -- with a Macintosh client workstation!

Planning and the press. One new area that we are likely to see increasingly important is linking prepress systems directly to press management. IFRA included developments from Cicero and Pape and Partner of Germany, which linked page planning and press controls to pick up the press configurations for color placement. You can bet on this being a key area by Drupa.

Images and retrieval systems. There is no letup in the explosion of products dealing with image transmission, data storage and retrieval, and other topics as libraries and databases encompass text and graphics, with multimedia on the way.

The sleeper. If there wasn't a highlight, was there a sleeper? A potential hot item for the future? A good candidate was ManMedia Mount from Sweden, providing very high-speed access to sql databases and the management of all input into a system.

#### Editorial, Classified and Pagination Systems

##### Alfa adds Presentation Manager for ads

Last year Alfa System Partner made the transition to a client-server architecture using a database server running Sybase on a Sparcstation. Alfa earlier had been one of the first system suppliers to run its editing and composition applications on pcs, in configurations linked to Prime file servers.

The current system follows the approach of many other suppliers in that it is a true client-server architecture, but the client workstations run under os/2 and Presentation Manager.

Display ads are made up using Archetype Designer. The image and opi server is a joint development with Pine Tree systems of Denmark. The server can have os/2 clients or other applications running as Mac or Windows clients. Alfa plans to have a Quark Xtension by Drupa in May to integrate Xpress directly into the system. The current editorial and classified pagination programs are Alfa developments under os/2.

We had previously looked at the classified pagination system, which ran under os/2. At IFRA, shown with Presentation Manager, it looked much slicker and easier to use. It allows users to mix different grid structures on a page, a facility much needed for the Swiss market. Up to nine pages can be displayed at one time.

In the near future, there will be a wysiwyg preview of all display ads. There is also a macro language to handle automatic output for different sites. Next year, in addition to the Quark Xpress interface, ads

will be displayed in place on fully made-up pages, rather than viewed as boxed areas. Full commercial information will be available about every ad on a page.

#### Apt unveils editorial, layout system

Beta EDV Service und Vertriebs GmbH hosted several of the companies whose products it distributes in Germany. Among the products on hand were desktop color and large-format printers, including the Pro Setter 1000 from Graphic Enterprises, launched at Nexpo (see Vol. 23, No. 22). In the other half of the booth was a new, Windows version of the ASY editorial and page makeup system developed by Apt Systems of the UK.

Apt Systems, founded in 1987, has sold dos versions of its software throughout Europe. It currently has about 700 installations in the UK, France, Italy and Spain, with a few in Germany. A German company, AB Graph GmbH, is the majority shareholder of Apt Systems.

ASY reflects the transition of a traditional, code-oriented editorial and typesetting page makeup system to the Windows environment. The current deliverable version includes a dos-based text editor in which style commands (the system supports both style sheets and in-line commands) are inserted directly into the text stream. At the top of the screen is a traditional display of job parameters. Justification information for each line is shown down the right. It is possible to toggle from the text editor to a wysiwyg page preview, but all editing must be done in the editing window.

To perform page makeup, the operator first sets up a layout or selects one from a library. The layouts designate individual component areas on the page for which style parameters have been set up. Text can then be flowed into the page, area by area. There is no page-to-page flow, however; the operator must call up a second page and resume flowing text into it. We were disappointed to see such a primitive feature on a new system, having thought the industry moved beyond such restrictions many years ago.

Fortunately, the program does support running text around boxes. If a picture box is added to a page, text automatically reflows around it. The operator can specify an exclusion area (gutter) around picture boxes. Areas within the layout can be tinted.

These are all pretty basic features, available on most page layout products. ASY's main strength -- and the only thing that really justifies its existence -- is the exacting typography and layout positioning based on coordinates (including composition of tables). Users who place greater value on these quality and precision issues than on ease of use and productivity may find ASY preferable to Xpress or PageMaker.

In that perspective, Apt aims its sales effort at small, quality-oriented publications, although it varies the script occasionally, such as in installing its largest system to date at a newspaper in Spain, where 30 workstations are configured on a Novell network. A customer in Germany, Hugo Mathes Verlag, produces both newspapers and magazines with the software.

The new Windows version of the software, called ASY/W, has just gone into beta testing. Apt hopes to deliver it before the end of the year. Right now, only about 60-70% of the dos system functionality has been rewritten for Windows. Menus are still in English. (Our demo was on the dos version, not the Windows one, presumably to show us the full functionality.) There is some additional functionality included in the new version -- mostly derived from Windows itself -- such as being able to drag and resize elements more easily. Beta sites include Conde Nast in the UK and Mathes Verlag in Germany. Both are existing ASY users.

Also in the Beta booth was the Graphic Universal SubSystem from Graphic Enterprises, looking the same as when we saw it at Nexpo. The intent had been to show the system integrated with the Apt system, but apparently there were integration problems.

#### Atex goes for European Prestige

Atex's big announcement was the launch of a new editorial system.

Atex has taken a decidedly different approach in recent years from its stance in the mid-'70s, when it introduced its first system. Back then, it kept basically the same system until early in the 1990s, serving all

applications with the same basic hardware and software. In recent years, though, it has introduced three new ones.

First came Deadline, aimed at Atex's traditional users. Then, earlier this year, along came the concept of a shrink-wrapped system (Hot off the Press) based on a family of Xtensions Atex has developed, plus a flat-file system. At IFRA, Atex debuted Prestige.

Prestige is aimed particularly at the German market where, until earlier this year, its main product was the Proenen & Partner PPEdit system. But when Proenen & Partner was bought by Cicero, a major Atex competitor, Atex needed a new system to replace it. Prestige is the answer.

Atex is positioning itself as the provider of two editorial offerings; for large and for medium-size newspapers. Deadline is aimed at customers that want Atex's WES composition system, which includes a lot of existing Atex sites. It gives these users a text editor similar to that of Atex's traditional J11 system (XyWrite for Windows) and access to EdPage for pagination. Prestige is targeted at sites that prefer Xpress for pagination and Word for text editing, while finding Xpress's composition quality acceptable.

Components. The first word we got of project D2, which later became Prestige, was that it incorporated Xpress, Word and Sybase. We thought it would be natural to use DewarView, as Atex does in North and South America, and, therefore, require integration services. Instead, Atex developed the client application using some of the Xpress-based Press2Go tools for layout and its own user interface. The Sybase database was developed by Atex and is not as complex as the schema used for Deadline, according to Atex. The presumption here is that it is faster.

The system runs on RS6000 servers with Sybase. The clients are '486 pcs running under Windows. Deadline has a similar architecture, but the workstations are '486 pcs running under os/2.

Press2Go Layout is used for page layout; it also supports links to the template library held in Xpress and carrying of geometry with stories. The layout can be created manually by the user or automatically, with layout-building functions supplied with the program.

Basic functionality. With Word 6.0, a user can access system files, the system browser and the wire browser (which uses the Atex Communications Manager).

The database provides the normal spreadsheet-type view. A view window, which can be brought up with a single click, shows 1,000 characters of a story and provides all the requirements of a long directory. In addition, Word functions are customized with a special tool palette, which can be accessed by the mouse or hot keys.

Xtending functionality. Layouts and styles from Xpress can be brought into Word, enabling Word to produce a depth estimate against the layout. Alternatively, if a copy of Xpress is installed on the same workstation as Word, an Atex Xtension called Prestige h&j accurately composes the text using Xpress's h&j. The resulting page shows all column breaks and indicates the amount of over- or undermatter. The Jump Document Xtension can be used to jump between Xpress documents (that is, from one page of a newspaper to another).

The Atex story header shows the history of the file, including the version. Keywords can be added into the header for use in archive searches. The Prestige System Browser allows a user to build or select search criteria for the database, and the results are shown in a spreadsheet-like format. There is a more button to build more complex searches, based on refining the search using additional arguments. It can also search on file modification dates or publishing dates.

Wire browser. The wire browser, which works closely with Word, features two main windows: one to show all the wire stories and a second for individual stories that are being tasted. If a story is to be selected for editing, the insert button is clicked and a copy of the story is automatically opened in Word. Alternatively, a user can send or assign a story to another user's queue. Stories that are sent are displayed with a marker in the wire browser.

Based on our first glimpse of Prestige, the program looks promising.

But much work needs to be done. Atex is attempting to find its first beta site in Germany for installation late this year.

Deadline: will the market buy it? So far, Atex has received minimal orders for Deadline, which had been introduced initially as the company's New Front End at the ANPA show in 1992. As of this writing, there are no newspapers using it to produce deadline-driven news pages. There are, however, many newspapers using Atex's powerful EdPage pagination system. Atex's marketing strategy is to provide a migration path for customers now using EdPage and WES with their J11 systems. At a later date, whenever they are inclined, they can switch to Deadline without giving up their traditional Atex functionality.

Safari. Another new Atex system making its first public showing at IFRA was Safari, a two-pronged system designed to track, route and manage all page elements. It will be available in separate versions for pages and ads.

Safari for Pages links editorial and page makeup functions.

Safari for Ads assists in workflow and database management by interfacing various ad production systems, such as ad booking, ad placement and other off-the-shelf system modules. It creates reports for management to analyze the production environment.

The system is similar to other Atex systems working in a client-server environment. The database is Sybase on an RS6000. Clients are both Windows pcs and Macs. Initially, Safari supports Photoshop, Word for Windows and Xpress. The ad version doesn't yet support MultiAd Creator or Digital Technology's AdSpeed.

Functionality. Safari works on the basis of workgroups. It holds information about group members and allocates work among them. When a member has been assigned a job, a picture of the person can be shown on screen (in case you don't know the person's name). The database specifies the jobs to be done by each group.

Workflow is based on job jackets, with work being assigned out of and into the job jacket. Every item in a job has to be individually identified in the job jacket and checked out and back in for use. Job jackets will have bar codes associated with them, so pieces of artwork can be bar coded to control checking them in and out. Included in the job jacket is a material record. When a job is completed as required, it is checked in and its status is updated on the system.

Our thoughts. Our first instinct after seeing Safari was to compare it with the RAMS product developed by John Tangney, Atex's vp of engineering, and Clive Purchase, a consultant to Atex, before they worked with Atex. The programs have some similarities.

After seeing Safari demonstrated, we feel that requiring each item of text and artwork for an ad to be checked in and out is overkill and slows down the ad-building time too much. Some form of group checkin and checkout for multiple elements of an ad would be much faster and allow ad makeup people to concentrate on creating the ad, not updating the database.

In other respects, we were impressed. The reporting and tracking aspects look good, and the level of control provided is excellent, particularly with tracking against deadlines.

Reflex. We also took a further look at Reflex, Atex's newspaper pagination tracking and monitoring system. Whereas Safari is concerned with workflow and the progress of work through different workgroups, Reflex is specifically designed for tracking the progress of pages against deadlines.

The new version of Reflex provides dynamic updating of portfolios. It is possible to define a portfolio as all pages running late and to have different colors show different degrees of lateness.

Enhancements to Reflex have made it more flexible. Among the types of information it can track are the percent of areas that have been completed; all pages for a specific date, including change pages for editions, zones or sections; and portfolios specified by a certain user (based on log-on) to enable that user to see a preferred set of pages or conditions within the publishing schedule.

Other new features are that pages can be output directly and Reflex is available for the Macintosh.

Reflex has been installed at the New York Daily News, where it is used to produce portions of the paper. Other sales have been to the New York Times, the Chicago Sun-Times, the Minneapolis Star-Tribune, the Guardian (UK) and Southern Newspapers (UK).

Automatrix shows database publishing

Although XChange usually brings more new Xtensions than we can find time to cover, that wasn't the case at IFRA. Partly because we had seen a batch of new ones at Seybold San Francisco and partly because we had spent time with Codesco (see below), we found ourselves up to date on the XChange Xtension front.

However, also in the XChange booth was Automatrix, which runs an integration and consulting business. Automatrix, which configures Mac-based systems around QPS and Managing Editor software modules, among others, showed a very interesting database publishing application it had put together for the advertising agency handling Vauxhall, General Motors' UK subsidiary.

The application provides a multiuser, client-server database consisting of all the advertising support elements produced for a new car launch. As a client-server application, the elements are available to all Vauxhall dealers in the UK, ensuring an artistically consistent advertising campaign on the local level.

The database provides a selection of base advertisements dealers can "clip" and run locally. Each ad also includes a series of customization options ranging from different car models and artwork through logos, contact information, maps, etc. The core technologies Automatrix employed to develop the application were FileMaker and Xpress, glued together with a bunch of scripts written in Userland Frontier. The scripts do more than just bring information from the FileMaker database into Xpress; they provide a dynamic environment for the dealer to experiment with and devise ads that will be of benefit on the local level while remaining consistent with the overall campaign.

CCI features Word, production control

In its theater and separate demonstrations, CCI Europe emphasized new features for production control and the integration of Word into its NewsDesk system.

CCI said it has received orders for NewsDesk editorial systems from 14 newspapers. It is being used in production by two of them, Nederlandse Dagbladunie and Axel Springer Verlag, in both cases integrated with System Integrators editorial systems. Four other newspapers currently are installing NewsDesk.

We discussed the CCI system concept in an in-depth report in February (see Vol. 23, No. 12). At that time we mentioned that CCI planned to expand the system from its roots as a layout and page makeup tool (LayoutChamp) to include tools for reporters and editors. We also said that CCI didn't have any plans to offer its own complete solution for advertising, but it would fill that need through integrating other vendors' systems. Available from CCI would be the production tools for ads, plus integration with other database and page makeup tools.

LayoutChamp provides one of the better tools on the market for layout- and content-driven pagination. It is viewed as a finished application, although CCI said it still will receive enhancements over time. The most notable addition in the near future will probably be availability on other platforms.

Also, with the conversion from a proprietary, flat-file approach to a standard, sql-compliant relational database approach, the system provides the necessary tools to handle more users and to add functionality such as production planning and control. Those features are now part of NewsDesk.

Integration of Word. CCI is integrating Word into its system as the tool for reporters, as part of continuing development of its editorial systems. Work is being done with Dagbladet in Oslo, where testing will begin next summer.

CCI picked Word as its standard text program for reporters because it was viewed as the best off-the-shelf alternative. But working with it uncovered functions that either weren't useful to reporters. So when Word

was integrated with the rest of the system, the standard top menu was replaced by one CCI developed itself. CCI also added a floating palette.

The menu line on top of the screen, as we described in our Nexpo coverage, includes all the different tags that could be assigned to the article text, e.g., head, subhead, writer, author credit, lead-in, body text, cross-heading, captions, picture credit, etc.

The new floating palette contains buttons for selecting tags, scaling the screen view and for the following:

- \* Save to save the text in the NewsEdit relational database.
- \* Tag edit to edit the tags or build new ones.
- \* Ignore to ignore the last function performed.
- \* Measure to send the story for h&j.
- \* Layout to show the layout for the active story.
- \* View to preview the active story.

CCI's integration of Word with NewsDesk has changed it fundamentally from its normal character. Most important, perhaps, is that it isn't a wysiwyg editor. It has a preview, but it serves primarily for editing the content and the structure of the story. The decision to exclude the possibility of editing the form or design of a story is logical, since the LayoutChamp is the right tool for this, CCI says.

Word does provide some useful feedback regarding copyfit, such as column breaks, overset or underset conditions, line count, typographical codes, etc..

Integration of Lotus Notes. At the Dagbladet newspaper in Oslo, CCI is cooperating with IBM Norway to enable Lotus Notes to serve as a front end to the CCI system. We believe that the IBM project builds on the system used during the Olympic Games in Lillehammer earlier this year. As most people remember, IBM was the official supplier of computer-related tools for news coverage in Lillehammer.

In a separate project, Dagbladet chose Lotus Notes as the "reporter toolbox" to provide reporters with a local and a global calendar, activity planning functions and a scheduler for who is doing what, phone lists, etc.

CCI Ad System. The concept behind the CCI Ad System is to combine decentralization and pagination with database control, in order to offer integrated production and output of display ads, classified pages and ad stacks. Work is under way to move the system to the same database as the rest of the CCI system. It now supports both centralized and multiple decentralized databases for users in various departments.

The ad database provides links from a variety of advertising systems, such as the Sypress system (as well as the Atex Enterprise system). It also transmits reports of published ads to the advertising system (or commercial system) for billing.

The concept is interesting in the sense that it supports industry-standard desktop applications such as Illustrator, Photoshop, FreeHand and Xpress.

Production control. Like many other vendors, as well as most newspapers, CCI realizes that any large newspaper installation needs a well-developed production planning and control system. We covered the first steps in this development in our in-depth report last February.

As before, the page plan comes from the ad booking system (ad dummies) and editorial booking. This means that the CCI Production Planning system has the necessary and latest information about what should be produced on different pages.

What has changed since then is the way the production status is displayed. CCI has moved away from the text- and table-oriented way of displaying the production status information. Instead, the company uses the same mosaic structure for displaying production status as is used for displaying lists and catalogs (see illustration, top right) available to be placed on pages during page makeup.

In the mosaic, different colors are used to show different statuses and different objects. For example, when an ad is booked initially, it is displayed in red. After it has been produced, proofed and accepted for insertion, it is displayed in green. The time objects on the page change color depending on the deadline assigned for that particular type of

object, as well as the deadline for the page itself.

This means that all ads on a page don't need to have the same deadline. Instead, different types of ads (ads produced inhouse, ads received as camera-ready, preprepared and prescreened ads, etc.) will change status (and color) at different times. This also goes for the status of the page itself.

The production status and color for each object on the page, and the page itself, are updated dynamically, i.e., at predefined intervals.

Integration with Atex editorial. To enable CCI to integrate its system closely with Atex editorial systems, Atex has improved the RS6000-based nfs gateway, which was introduced a couple of years ago but was never finished as a usable product. The new gateway will be a standard product to which any vendor or system integrator can interface in order to get full, two-way communications with "old" Atex editorial systems.

In the case of the integration between the Atex system and the CCI system, text in the Atex system will be h&j'ed using h&j routines residing in the CCI system. That is, text will be sent to the CCI system for h&j and returned to the Atex system with correct line endings and column breaks. The only thing an Atex user won't get with this integration is the preview facility available on normal Atex terminals.

This development has been implemented in a project at the Sun-Sentinel in Fort Lauderdale, FL. Atex has worked very closely with CCI and the newspaper to get the best possible results.

Thus, it is now possible for a newspaper to keep an aging Atex editorial front-end system, while still moving into full, electronic page makeup with CCI. For CCI, it provides an opportunity to get a foot in the door of an Atex user. When the newspaper later decides to change the rest of its editorial system, CCI will already be there. At the same time, this approach gives CCI time to finish development of NewsDesk for reporters and editors. It's a clever strategy for CCI.

The Atex advertising system? CCI hasn't achieved the same integration with Atex's advertising system, but integration with the Sypress advertising system is under development at Dagens Nyheter in Stockholm.

As we reported previously, the Sypress advertising system served as the basis for the advertising system Atex is selling under the Enterprise name. As a result, we anticipate that CCI will be able to achieve the same tight integration with the Atex system. However, we don't know if all the software developed in conjunction with the integration project at Dagens Nyheter will be available to Atex.

Installation update. CCI continues to move into the North American market. We've already reported an order from the Toronto Star. Another one comes from Compton Publishing, which will use the system to produce Encyclopaedia Britannica.

Other installations are the newspapers Politiken and Ekstrabladet in Copenhagen, CCI's first installation at a metropolitan newspaper in Denmark.

Also, the German newspaper Neue Westphalische Zeitung and the Norwegian newspaper Verdens Gang (in Oslo) have signed up for CCI pagination systems.

Cicero gets PPEdit, goes 'direct to truck'

There was plenty of activity at Cicero during the past year: (1) strong system sales, (2) the purchase of Proenen & Partner GmbH and (3) a development agreement with ABB, which, if successful, may lead to other things.

Cicero claims to have sold more systems in Germany during the past few years than any other supplier.

As noted above under Atex, Proenen & Partner had developed the system (PPEdit) Atex sold in the German market. The acquisition of Proenen & Partner by Cicero caused Atex to develop its Prestige system. The base of Atex customers in Germany is very strong and there is an ongoing demand for an Atex-like editorial system. Hanns-Jorg Proenen has remained with Cicero to lead a development team to integrate the original PPEdit system into a comprehensive, Windows-based pagination system.

Meanwhile, at the other end of the publishing process, ABB has created



a page database of press configurations as a basis for Cicero to finish development of a comprehensive planning and tracking system.

Text+ for Windows. While Windows products are preferred, Cicero has found that dos products -- specifically the PPEdit system -- are still getting attention. The new Windows products (indicated with a "+" in the name, as in CiceroText+ and CiceroLayout+) will use the same data structure. Dos and Windows modules can be mixed in the same system.

CiceroText+ has improved the searching and filtering features for creating directories. The system allows four different views into the database to be displayed and refreshed at once. A directory view includes the first half-dozen lines of the story, but scroll bars will be added soon to enable reading the entire story.

Predefined search criteria can be attached to each user's log-on. General search criteria can be accessed from the server. The new software supports drag-and-drop functions to move files from a directory into the editing program and from one directory to another.

A palette is provided to facilitate selecting predefined story formats quickly and easily. Formats are grouped according to basic structure -- three columns, two columns, box, etc. After a group is selected, all of the options for that basic structure are displayed in a palette as skeletal figures that can be selected by name or by clicking.

Layout+. CiceroLayout+ also has strong visual tools and palettes. Elements are assigned to a page using clipboards. A pasteboard next to the actual page displays thumbnails of the elements assigned to the page.

An innovation is the Object Inspector, a content-sensitive tool that changes functionality based on the type of element selected -- news, picture, etc. For example, the features for pictures allow cropping, resizing and the addition of borders. Another toolkit within the Inspector builds fancy borders. Each edge and corner can have different characteristics, created by combining available elements to design the main border, to which can be added shadow effects, colors, tints, etc.

Computer to truck. ABB of Zurich, which Cicero claims is the second largest company in the world, has more than 2,000 business units and more than 200,000 employees. The printing business unit, based in Baden, is mostly known for its press drive units and press control systems.

The new master plan, which is similar to the Cicero project from last year, is to create a completely closed-loop system to automate the entire newspaper production process from ad entry to delivery.

A pilot project is scheduled to be tested in a company-owned newspaper next year. The project will attempt to tie together the distribution, advertising, editorial and pressroom control systems to plan and coordinate the publishing of up to 40 editions each night.

Cicero's distribution system, currently in use at one company-owned newspaper, includes the ability to plan the print run and press schedule, optimizing the number of trucks required to deliver the changing number of editions each day.

In Germany, many special position requests for ads are honored, leaving manual placement as the most efficient method to dummy the paper. The software can access the ad database for the list of ads, the attributes such as color requirements, and other special requests. Each ad is placed manually.

Ad placement is relatively basic in Germany, so the ad layout software being developed by Cicero is not very sophisticated when compared with U.S. products. The interesting aspect is that the software will retrieve the press configuration directly from the press-control system instead of entering it manually each day.

The goal of the planning and tracking software will be to track and control the complex process of printing 40 editions each night. With that many editions, a particular press run may be completed before an error such as a wrong page is caught.

The tracking software will monitor electronic events using a direct reporting process to the page database. Physical events will be tracked using bar code readers on input and output of each production step. The system will monitor when and where a page is supposed to be, and whether it

is late or early for its particular press run. The process will track pages all the way to the cylinder, with the goal of being at the right cylinder at the right time.

Before the deal with ABB, Cicero's page tracking project was hampered by the fact that all the press information had to be entered manually. Now ABB will build a complete page database automatically. As a result, much of the client software previewed last year was scrapped in favor of the ABB database work already completed. Cicero will now focus entirely on the client modules.

While 40 editions is a complex job, ABB has found an even more complex project: Germany's largest regional newspaper, with more than 100 editions and runs shorter than 2,000 copies.

Codesco features wire, Planner Xtensions

Codesco is a versatile organization, developing its own Quark Xtensions, marketing third-party Xtensions and plug-ins in German-speaking countries, and functioning as a system integrator and Xpress training and support group. Thus, it had a varied selection of things to show at IFRA.

We covered many of Codesco's Xtensions (marketed under the name Extended Technologies) at Seybold San Francisco (see Special Report, Vol. 3, No. 3). There were some others at IFRA:

- \* Ex Aesthetic lets you save a realm of specific character style combinations, including kerning, as a style that can then be applied to other elements.

- \* Hotline automatically calls Codesco and sends it information about the specific Macintosh, Xpress and Xtensions in use so that this information can be used by a support person to help solve the customer's particular problem. (We assume this one is available only in German-speaking countries.)

- \* XTelegram 2.0 for QPS (from Media Support and Development of Sweden) manages incoming wire-service files and routes them to Xpress or to CopyDesk pages. It requires the use of wire-capture software and, according to the developer, works well with both MacTelegram and Baseview's WireManager. It has been installed at several sites in Scandinavia and at the Jersey Evening Post in the UK, where it is marketed by ND Comtec.

Using XTelegram 2.0, editors can browse incoming wire information or search for specific stories and copy and paste parts of them into Xpress pages. They can also check individual stories directly into the QPS Dispatch server. Searches can be conducted by category or by using full-text capabilities that are new in version 2.0. Also new in this version are drag-and-drop editing capabilities, a way to mark used stories, the ability to print directly from the program and a way to watch for an incoming story based on a series of predefined criteria.

- \* QuickStyler (Media Support), still in development, assembles various style sheets into a palette so style changes can be made more quickly.

- \* Planview (Van Gennep-Media Automation Consulting B.V. of Holland) is an Xtension for the QPS Planner module. Because the QPS Planner is still in a state of flux, Planview is still in development, but Media Automation plans to release it within six months, hopefully at the QPS Service Plus meeting this December. Planview will add a set of interesting graphical capabilities to the Planner module to supplement the standard Excel-like tabular way of presenting information. It will allow the Planner user -- copyeditor, managing editor or other manager -- to see a preview of page layouts in process with different colors assigned to indicate the status of different elements. This feature has been missing from the Planner all along. It's often faster to take a quick look at pages to see whether they are finished or not rather than sorting through statistical information in tabular form.

Datox focuses on Sybase and Sun

Datox, based in Paris, has supplied integrated systems to French newspapers and magazines since 1981. In 1988 it began to move off proprietary hardware and software in the direction of open systems based on standard platforms. Currently the company considers itself a system integrator selling systems composed of Sun (Unix) or Macintosh servers; Sun, Mac and Windows workstations; Ethernet, tcp/ip, Transfix and RNIS

networks; and software modules from Sun, Sybase, Archetype, Quark, Adobe, Corel, Microsoft, etc.

The company is organized into three departments to provide custom software development and networking, system integration, and service and support for hardware and software.

At IFRA, Datox showed a variety of pc and Mac software modules, including a Quark Xtension called DxBourse for formatting stock- market data from wire services. It also showed page processing systems for newspapers and magazines, called DxPresse and DxMag, respectively.

Both DxPresse and DxMag use a Sybase database running on a Sun server to manage a centralized multimedia library of page templates, shapes and styles, text files and illustrations. Five additional software modules are accessible by users for processing and creating pages:

- \* DxVisu, a database search module, allows users to find objects in the database.

- \* DxAgc is a wire-service browsing module.

- \* DxForme lets the user trace templates and shapes and capture varying typographic parameters to develop layouts that will be used for page makeup. It includes a template tool for developing page layouts, a shaping tool for defining graphic boxes with tints, rules, etc., and an optional tool for setting up style tags and defining the typographic parameters they establish.

- \* DxEdit is a wysiwyg editing tool.

- \* DxCoult, a page makeup module, lets the user access prepared layouts and then flow text and position illustrations and photographs in them. It allows last-minute text editing and provides the ability to make typographic changes directly on the layout screen.

Delta ready to take off with Sprint

Delta Information Systems, which has been building small newspaper systems based on Mopas batch composition software for many years, demonstrated its new Sprint product line. Based on Novell's sql relational database, it includes Editor, Page and EditBase modules.

Sprint is operational at the Westfalischen Nachrichten, a German newspaper located in Munster, with a circulation of more than 200,000. The pilot project begun in the summer of 1993 has grown to include all of the company's 18 editorial offices. The sites are connected in a wan by isdn. Each office, with 8-10 editorial seats, has a complete Sprint system and makes up complete pages. A main editorial facility has more than 80 editorial workstations.

Most of the editorial, layout and composition functionality has been rewritten from the Data General operating system to dos and given a face-lift with a Windows graphical interface. Delta is building on the Novell sql database work it had been doing for years. Oddly, though, it has abandoned its standard word processor (XyWrite) and gone back to its own editor.

We have covered the Mopas batch composition and editing functionality in detail previously (see Vol. 21, No. 14), so we'll focus on the new features.

User interface. The new interface offers an interactive, but structured, method for building story geometry. Step by step, the operator selects the parameters for the story: head size, subhead, number of columns, etc. With each step, the operator sees a skeleton display of the format changes resulting from the new parameters. Even more interesting is how the system provides guidance in the newspaper's specific style rules and preferences by changing subsequent menus to reflect what is legal and what's not.

Layout styles are defined at installation to include the exact composition parameters. While this formatting technique may not be as flexible as the new Digital Technology styling, it seems appropriate for modular European formatting. Formatting options include borders, tints, indents, dropped initials, etc., all of which are structured according to the style book of the newspaper.

Composition. Using the Mopas composition system, h&j is done as a batch process at the server. The results are previewed on the screen. This

currently takes 10 seconds. Delta expects to move h&j to the local workstation by Drupa.

Stories are pulled from the sql database and either "paper clipped" to the page or inserted directly in position. Delta cannot draw formats directly on the page, but relies on the formatting screen to create all story geometry. This may have good as well as bad points. The good side is that it appears difficult to wander far away from the publication style using the Delta approach.

For page tracking and monitoring the editorial process, Delta has implemented an electronic white board. Editors paste on the board the pages they want to monitor.

Digital Technology adds Hebrew, formats

We ran into Don Oldham and his Digital Technology crew in the Expograph booth and found two new developments for PageSpeed, its editorial pagination software. One new item was a Hebrew version developed by Innova Technologies. A second enhancement, expanded formatting capabilities, came from development work at the Los Angeles Times and other major newspaper installations.

Hebrew PageSpeed. There are plenty of challenges in creating a Hebrew version of a pagination routine, but David Richardson, director of Innova Technologies Ltd., has been through it before with a Hebrew version of Atex. Innova hopes to offer a Hebrew version of DT's PageSpeed within the next three months. When Page Speed is completed, AdSpeed will be virtually 80% complete.

Some of the more basic chores -- translating menu commands, dialog boxes and database directories, fields and tables -- are almost complete. However, the more difficult parts of text editing, on- screen composition and printing are still being addressed, one obstacle at a time.

Much of the complexity comes from intermixing Hebrew and English on the same line -- matching the heights and weights of the fonts between Hebrew and English characters; figuring how to deal with English phrases that break to a second line; flowing both left to right and right to left on the same line; getting the Hebrew vowels and diacritical marks; etc.

Formats, formats and more formats. When editorial departments began laying story pagination formats on top of straight galley composition, they saw their format libraries jump from hundreds to thousands of individual styles.

Format libraries can snowball based solely on the variety of headline styles (i.e., 24-point, one-line; 36-point, two-line; 48- point, three-line; etc.) that need to be matched against a variety of formats (one-column, two-column, two-column in a box, etc.). When more sophistication is added, such as odd column measures, varying text styles, graphics, pulled quotes and multiple levels of headlines, the number of formats explodes to enormous proportions.

Another way to address formatting is basically to create story geometry on the fly when the page is being created each day.

Creating, updating and managing that many styles is a concern. But what became more important was developing a fast method to access the formats during the chaos that accompanies deadline news layout. While we saw other new and improved methods for creating and storing formats at IFRA, an interesting possibility would be to eliminate the large library altogether by automating it as part of an automated news layout process.

The idea of a "newspaper style guide" could be considered an oxymoron. The goal of a style book is to foster a consistent typographic style that gives a publication a particular look and feel. However, by nature newspaper front pages need to be different every day, sometimes simply for variety, but mostly for editorial reasons. At deadline, with press time looming, adherence to the style guide is not the top priority.

Amebic story shapes. DT has attempted to address variability and flexibility with what it calls "amebic" style boxes and an elementary sgml. The latter identifies the different story elements, while the former creates graphical placeholders on the page for the story. The end result is a one-two punch that simplifies page layout considerably.

Each element is tagged with a format call -- head, byline, etc. There

is nothing new here, but it is crucial to automating the composition of the story elements and allowing an editor to edit the text regardless of where jump lines fall in the story. This markup technique will also be useful in repurposing the content for other media and in the library.

At first glance, the procedure for creating a story layout (sketching boxes within a page grid) looks like all others. However, the interesting aspect of DT's approach is that while there are general typographic parameters assigned to each format, they are not fixed for a specific space. By stretching the containing box over, say, three columns, the system reads the styles, and assigns the head and the text to three columns automatically, with the appropriate typographic parameters.

Similarly, the system uses preprogrammed rules to know the proper fixed vertical spacing between the picture and the caption and the caption and the text.

As we all know by now, the technology is half the solution. DT is now working on the training part. The natural reaction from the editorial departments has been to write a format for each occasion. With the new approach, the system will be using some knowledge it gains on the fly or that has been preprogrammed to adapt the typographic parameters to the type of situation, without requiring a new format to dictate every parameter. Oldham thinks that when all is said and done, DT may wean newspapers off the 2,000-format libraries to 200 formats and possibly 20 basic styles that get stretched and tweaked on the page. It is an admirable goal.

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DuPont gives up on Whirlwind

Not surprisingly, there was no sign of the DuPont-Camex Whirlwind system, which was put up for sale last summer by DuPont. As we report in The Latest Word, DuPont failed to find a buyer for the system and will close the operation officially on Nov. 30.

ESE shows EdBase, Windows News Layout

ESE, which had introduced its EdBase editorial environment at Nexpo (see Vol. 23, No. 21), has added a functional Windows client and the ability to use any sql relational database -- Oracle or Gupta, for example. All objects -- Word text files, Xpress page layouts and the data describing them -- are stored in the database; there are no links to the file system. Searching the database is accomplished via a limited set of sql query statements. The software is currently scheduled for release in the first quarter. ESE plans to install it at a paper in Spain in March to replace an earlier version of the system.

ESE also brought version 3 of its News Layout software, formerly Information Engineering's Editorial News Layout. Last year at IFRA, the company showed early progress in moving the software from a character-based user interface to the Windows environment. That development effort is now finished and the first Windows site is scheduled for installation soon.

The Windows version of News Layout maintains a grid view of the page assembly area to be compatible with older versions of the software. There is also a dummy view into which page elements are added. ESE's News Layout is designed to interact with other systems installed at the newspaper site. For example, it picks up ad space reservations from an ad layout system such as Layout-8000.

The editorial staff writes stories in Word to fit geometry supplied by News Layout. The page geometry is supplied to Xpress for page makeup. ESE is developing a way to provide Xpress h&j in Word.

Euromax focuses on broad issues

Euromax A/S presented its approach from the perspective of the newspaper as a business. The focus was on responsiveness to market changes, sales and optimization of the entire prepress process. The strategy leads to an integrated production control and management system, supporting the business process in the newspaper industry.

The new solution is basically the same system (now called Euromax 2000) that was developed for VUM in Belgium (see below). Since then, Euromax has sold two more Euromax 2000 systems, one in Belgium and one in New Zealand (see installations, p. 2).

In brief, the system is based on standard Unix and X Window-Motif applications and an Oracle relational database.

Target applications include:

- \* Newspaper planning, including simulation of alternative papers.
- \* Ad management, with functions such as online booking and canvassing.
- \* Editorial, including the possibility for several users to work in parallel on the same page during page makeup.
- \* Production tracking and control, based on a new product (or application) called Maquette View. (Although Euromax didn't tell us why it chose this name, "maquette" is French for a schematic or exact representation of printed matters or page makeup.)

The company. Since we last saw Euromax, the company has changed its name. It had been operating as a division within Dansk Data Elektronik A/S (DDE), a Danish computer manufacturer. The name Euromax was used to refer to the products developed for and aimed at the publishing industry. So we often referred to the company as DDE Euromax. However, to differentiate itself and its products from DDE, and to give the market a better and clearer picture of the publishing equipment, Euromax A/S was established as a fully owned subsidiary of DDE last May.

Maquette View. Maquette View could be called a viewing tool that displays the status of the newspaper at any time. Pages can be shown as thumbnails based on page deadlines, physical and logical pages, physical sections, page status, users working on pages or elements, status of editorial content or ads, colors planned (but not used) for any given page, etc.

Maquette uses colors to reflect the production status of each element. Information displayed for each page includes page number, deadline, name of the person responsible for the page, planned or possible colors and production status.

Some examples of the use of Maquette follow.

- \* The advertising department -- to "read" the exact content of each ad and to check the production status of each ad.
- \* The editorial department -- to get a wysiwyg view of the page for page makeup.
- \* Newspaper management -- to get production status and more detailed information regarding individual elements on pages and who is working on any specified element.

To use Maquette to plan the newspaper and to control production requires a lot of information about the newspaper. We got a very good, but, unfortunately, too short, demonstration. Any newspaper that plans to invest in a new system, and that considers planning the newspaper and controlling the production process to be essential, should get a closer look at what Euromax has to offer.

Reopening the debate. It's been clear to us for some time that the market has pretty much decided that the future belongs to open systems and that vendors that try to peddle equipment based on proprietary components will find them difficult to sell.

The movement has been so convincing that it has extended from composition engines to networks to hardware platforms. In the newspaper market, the systems being sold are installed either as very simple networks or as part of a modern, client-server architecture with a database server in the center, and standard Windows and Macintosh hardware and software products for the creative and production parts of the operation.

But there's always someone out there with a different opinion. In some cases, old-time companies are hanging onto their own (old) formulas while they make a transition to the open future. In other cases, they just believe that proprietary systems are still the best course.

That is a long preface to a report on our visit to the Euromax booth to see a system developed using a lot of principles from the past. Euromax is one of the last holdouts to the old idea that systems should be based on "homegrown" applications because they are more productive. One reason for this approach could be that Euromax is part of a computer manufacturer that has invested tremendous amounts of resources into r&d and the manufacturing of its own hardware and software. In order to push sales of its own

hardware, it may choose to market a system that uses as many as possible of its own components.

Closing the door. We discussed this issue with Euromax and were told bluntly that we are wrong; the Euromax system is built as it is to make the best use of the power in the system. For example, the opinion goes, why do anything at the workstation level when the workstation cpu generally will be idle? A better solution, according to Euromax, is to do as much as possible at the server lever. (The server in the Euromax system is based on DDE's own Supermax computer.)

According to Euromax, in the future the system will be available, without requiring a port, to run on any other platforms conforming to MIPS conventions. (DDE Supermax computers use MIPS processors.) Platforms mentioned are those from Concurrent Computer, Control Data, NEC, Pyramid Technology, Silicon Graphics, Siemens-Nixdorf, Sony and Tandem. That's not a very good list of who's who in the graphic arts.

The client stations, also based on Unix, are similarly dubious in their presence in the system. User stations running Unix in the newspaper market, at least for editorial operations, are few --with the most notable attempt at such a system architecture being the DuPont-Camex Whirlwind, which is going up in smoke as we write this.

Rather than go on and on expressing our feelings about the Euromax strategy, we'll note one of the problems that might arise with this architecture. Imagine late changes to an ad produced with Xpress or Creator and found during page makeup. The changes can't be made on the page makeup workstation, which uses Euromax's proprietary software. Instead, the ad has to be sent for corrections back to a Macintosh or a pc running the appropriate desktop application. As the deadline approaches, this workflow could be frustrating, indeed.

Installations. Since last year, Euromax has continued to implement the 350-seat system at VUM (Vlaamse Uitgeversmaatschappij) in Belgium. For those not already familiar with the company or the order, VUM is a publishing house that publishes De Standaard, Het Nieuwsblad and De Gentenaar newspapers, with a combined daily circulation of more than 370,000 copies.

Also on the installation-upgrade list is De Cuyper in Belgium (a free-sheet paper), with a 40-terminal system. This is not really a new customer, though, since it has had an old Euromax system since 1989. For additional installation news, see p. 2.

The good and the bad. With the applications Euromax has developed and with its perspective of treating the newspaper as a business -- focusing on the responsiveness to market changes, sales and optimization of the entire prepress process -- this is one of the really interesting systems on the market today.

Unfortunately, the platform and application approach may discourage some prospective customers, who might rather stick to more standard components than buy a complete Euromax system. The customer that buys a Euromax 2000 has voted against industry-standard applications, since there is very little opportunity to integrate common desktop products with the Euromax system.

Funkinform's Profit now fast and fancy

Last year we noticed that the dos-based Profit (from "professional fit") user interface was past its prime. Gunter Funk of Funkinform promised he would have a Windows version by this year. He kept his word, and we saw a demonstration of a preview version of WinNews, the new Windows-based pagination system.

This was no small feat. As is typical in Europe, the editorial application software includes the editor, news layout and page makeup software in one package.

Funkinform offers a complete system for German newspapers, but currently the advertising and production products are still dos-based. Each application will be completely rewritten, maintaining all of the functionality of the original system, but adding the many features that come with Windows -- drag and drop, ole and Visual Basic. Funk said he expects to have the advertising portion working by the end of the year and

the final release of the editorial portion by spring.

We wondered whether, when it moved to Windows, it would maintain the fast response times we saw with the dos version (probably the reason Funk waited so long to move to Windows).

Deja vu. The graphical interface looks very familiar, which is no accident. WinNews was modeled directly after Word 6.0. Most Windows applications developed using 3.1 and Visual Basic tend to look the same anyway (a positive characteristic). However, do not be fooled by appearances: H&j, spelling checking and the editor were simply rewritten for Windows from the original software. This is unlike Harris and Dewar, which use the Word 6.0 editor and link it to an outside h&j program using dde commands.

WinNews offers three means of accessing stories: an editor's private directory, stored on the central database but secured; a working directory of files; and access to the database. Because each workstation has access to the pagination software, an editor may select stories from the database by double-clicking on the story on the page.

Like many European editorial systems, editors generally write heads, captions, subheads, etc., directly into a layout already specified earlier in the day. However, the system also supports interactively laying out completed stories.

The editor can use a split screen (two windows) to edit either in monospaced or wysiwyg mode.

Story formats are created in a conventional fashion using a comprehensive screen to enter all of the standard parametric composition data. The layout menu is easy to use for a single story and comprehensive enough to build publication-wide formats.

Once a format is built, it can be stored and accessed from a pulldown menu. Frequently used formats can be stored on buttons on the tool bar.

In the blink of an eye. When we recomposed a 25" story with complex format changes, different head styles and column formats, the composition was done in less than a second. WinNews did not disappoint us on speed.

A red icon at the bottom of the story indicated overset text. A window showed by how many lines the story was too long. Double-clicking on the story brought the story up for editing, either in wysiwyg display or the monospaced display.

The pagination software was completely rewritten for Windows, with full support for ole 2.0. Calling an object into the page causes the story format to change accordingly without entering any commands or indents. Another important feature in Germany, baseline synchronization on the entire page, was under development.

Overall, the Funkinform Profit system has made great strides in its move to Windows during the past year. While the move took place a little late in the game, the system has benefited from the more advanced Windows features, such as tool bars, icons, ole 2.0 and Visual Basic. For a preview, it was very far along. We look forward to seeing Funkinform at Drupa.

Harris and Baseview rolling along nicely

At IFRA, for the first time since the acquisition, Harris Publishing Systems and Baseview demonstrated in the same booth. Unlike the way most mergers and acquisitions have happened in this industry, Harris has taken a hands-off approach with Baseview. And why not? Baseview has been very successful during the past several years.

Other than tapping its new resource for its expertise in building Quark Xtensions and setting some revenue goals, Harris has kept its word so far. However, Harris believes its financial backing has had a positive effect on Baseview sales. Financial stability helps Baseview distinguish itself from other vendors in the newspaper industry.

After announcing several significant orders at Nexpo, Harris has tallied another long list of orders for its XP21 product line (but not quite the length usually garnered by Baseview). The list includes orders for its NewsMaker editorial system and a significant order from the New York Post for a classified system.

Believing the European market is dominated by desktop products, Harris



emphasized its new link to the desktop, which is under development. It also stressed a more subtle product direction of moving application software back one level of abstraction from the database to allow any publisher to get the full benefit of the XP21 database functions (image archive, etc.) without having to use a Harris product. Browser, the search-and-retrieval client software, is the best example of the tight but independent integration strategy.

Originally, Browser was a Unix client used to access the Images picture database. Naturally, it became more useful when it was moved to the Macintosh as a Photoshop plug-in. Now the functionality is becoming a requirement for anyone in the newspaper that needs to access the publication database. Dumping the tie to Photoshop and making it available on all three major platforms -- Unix, Mac and Windows -- makes it easier to use Browser on any workstations in the newspaper.

An extreme example is using Browser in lieu of the Open File command or File Manager to access files for Word 6.0. The integration uses drag-and-drop-like features in Windows to perform complex searches and to open or place elements in Word.

Rubbermaid to the rescue. Another indication of moving back a level of abstraction is Harris's support of ole 2.0 in its NewsMaker Pagination software. Harris now uses the metaphor of a "container" to describe a newspaper page. This approach is different from Xpress's and even from previous Harris pagination methods that stored content inside the page file, usually in its own native data format.

The impact of the addition of ole 2.0 support is not obvious at the page layout step, but it has many ramifications to the pagination database and to the page production process. The user simply sees a different command placing a graphic or picture, but behind the scenes, ole allows the kind of flexibility that newspapers have been wanting for years.

Theoretically, at least, keeping the content "linked" to the page and in its native application format, ole allows the page "container" to be built without limiting the ability to update the individual page element up until the last minute. Harris has provided this type of automation before but with many support applications. Adding ole support will help Harris offer the same speed more easily.

NewsMaker Pagination version 3.0, Harris's first Windows version of a pagination product, has been in beta testing at a friendly site (an existing Harris user very close to home in Vero Beach), and it will be tested soon in a more hostile environment, a new customer installation.

#### Hyphen debuts ad booking system

Besides showing enhancements to its systems, Hyphen introduced a Windows-based ad booking system it sells through a distribution agreement with Cybervision from the UK. The company also announced a new agreement with Mannesmann Scangraphic for exclusive marketing and distribution rights to Scangraphic's Othello and Largo oem imaging engines.

Release 3. The Hyphen Editorial System (HES) was shown with new release 3 software, which supports up to 32,000 master pages. Also new is automatic page-element adjustment, which preserves gutters and other elements when an article is moved from one location to another. This feature is useful when an article is switched to a different length or width, but the gutters, etc., aren't stretched, as would be the case in products such as Xpress.

Popup menus are now user-definable, with functions configurable through macro languages in the story editor and the page manager. The algorithmic depth counter that is used to estimate the size of an article has been enhanced to take into account the styles associated with selected areas.

Overall, the HES page layout, editing and composition capabilities look very good.

File storage. HES can work with either a flat-file database or a relational database. The Text Manager employs a flat-file format like the ones we loved in older systems supplied by Atex, System Integrators, CSI, Hastech, etc.

The second type of file storage is a full database using Sybase. This

database is entirely a Hyphen development, not the Midsystems Sybase implementation used in earlier Hyphen products.

When used with Text Manager, the database can be set up to resemble an Atex J11 system, particularly in the way queues are organized. The database can load 1,400 files in three seconds when scrolling through wire stories. The directory view supports a popup text window that gives the effect of a long directory linked directly to the short directory.

Both the Text Manager and Sybase implementations handle page- element tracking that supports dynamic updating, with elements displayed in different colors.

All system configurations use pc workstations under Windows. Environments available for the Text Manager file server include Novell, nt Advanced Server, DEC Alpha and Sun Sparc under Solaris. The Sybase database is available only on Sparcstations under Solaris. For very small configurations, HES can run using Windows for Workgroups.

HES systems have been installed in 26 sites, mainly in Italy, but also in Colombia, Mexico, South Africa, India, Scotland and the U.S.

Cybervision Cyclops. Shown for the first time under the Hyphen banner was the Cybervision Cyclops advertisement production and management system. Cybervision, as some readers may recall, has been called "son of Xenotron." All its staff members are former Xenotron employees, and it is based in Diss, Norfolk, UK, where Xenotron was based (and near Hyphen's UK office).

Cyclops includes a good, pc-based display ad workstation that is in use at a number of sites in the UK and Europe. The nucleus of Cyclops is a relational database that controls and manages all elements of ad production, from ad booking through ad pagination. Hyphen has sold some Cyclops systems in Italy.

The ad booking and sales system is a Windows application that can handle most ad booking needs we have come across. It has an excellent user interface that makes full use of the Windows graphic display. It uses the same composition engine as the Cyclops display ad makeup workstation. Display ad makeup is integrated with a subset of the full display ad application. The booking capabilities are good, with a comprehensive set of calendar and insertion options.

An item that caught our eye is Speedforms, a facility for enabling various styles to be applied to text after it has been captured. It automatically provides the appropriate options for making up different types of elements. In effect, it could be viewed as a system of makeup prompts, much like the sales prompts commonly used with classified systems.

Another very nice facility is the availability of alternative pricing -- not only the price for the style and schedule chosen, but additional prices to assist the salesperson to upsell or even downsell the ad.

In addition to ad booking, Cyclops handles canvassing, with a variety of selling tools, and full makeup of ad pages with placement of both the rop and classified advertising.

Newsware hot everywhere. The item that drew the greatest attention in the Hyphen booth was the Newsware smart newspaper database. We saw this at Nexpo, where it was one of the highlights, and at Seybold San Francisco, where it did an encore. At IFRA, we heard that people had come from as far away as India to see the product. We don't think they were disappointed.

Newsware continues to progress nicely prior to a formal release. We plan to take a close look at the technology -- storing text as geometric shapes, not as characters, and retrieving items based on matching those shapes -- when the system is ready for evaluation.

IBM shows News 2000, improved Pressline

IBM showed its own products and those from other suppliers using IBM hardware and operating systems. Many of the systems are being sold by parties other than IBM, but IBM Deutschland does market some systems itself, two of which were in the booth.

News 2000. The first of the products being sold by IBM was News 2000, the system developed by the NZZ newspaper operation in Zurich. We recall our last look at News 2000, when we found it severely underwhelming. This year it was improved. News 2000 is now running under os/2 with Presentation Manager. (Although we find it difficult to call a switch to os/2 an

improvement, we are reminded that this industry has yet to give up completely on it. It is still available from System Integrators in its MTX workstations, from Atex in Deadline, from Alfa System in its workstations, from Bestinfo-Intergraph in its TRAC system and from IBM. Perhaps next year, when Windows 95 hits the market, membership in the os/2 club will fade.)

News 2000, which still doesn't believe in using a mouse for layout work or a file server for data storage, is reportedly in use at several sites, including a 280-workstation system at Main Presse. It resembles the Information International TECS II (nee Morris) system in that different workstations on the token-ring network back each other up. It is recommended that the workstations have 16 mb of ram.

We saw a demonstration of classified pagination, which includes some nice features, but we have to wonder if there is a future for this system.

Pressline. The other IBM system we saw was Pressline, which looks like a better and more up-to-date system than News 2000. Pressline uses client-server architecture, with the server running DB2 database software and clients running on pcs under os/2.

The text editor provides a wysiwyg preview of the data, but editing is done using a standard text display. The header area shows all the formats in use. Directories are presented in a spreadsheet-like view and include status information. Users can request data from the database, based on file status. Movement between applications is easy, requiring one keystroke to switch applications.

Images are accepted from a variety of sources. As they are brought in for placement on a page, they can be cropped to fit. Xpress data can be input as eps images, but cannot be edited. Pressline supports drag-and-drop operations.

Pressline is nearing initial installations, with the first systems slated to go in soon.

Based on what we saw, we would not be surprised if Pressline becomes IBM Deutschland's main publishing system, replacing the aging News 2000.

ISGI features IPS Press, Compact

ISGI (Integrierte Systeme Grafische Industrie), the Siemens Nixdorf division that handles media industries, has a long history of supplying systems to the German-speaking market. In recent years, it has experienced a changing role.

First, it went through a separation from Linotype-Hell, which had been its co-owner. Then it was involved in the acquisition of the Monigraaf software company in Finland, which was part of the Nixdorf Computer acquisition. Since that time, Monigraaf has become a key part of ISGI's development. Monigraaf systems are either integrated into the ISGI system or sold as separate systems, which is most common in Scandinavia.

ISGI has three development groups: in Finland, where Windows software is handled; in Kiel, for Unix workstations; and in Munich, where server and database functionality are developed. These groups are developing two systems, both of which appear to be very complete and capable, although they haven't attracted many customers outside Germany and Scandinavia.

The Finnish system, developed in conjunction with the Monigraaf operation, is sold as Toti in Scandinavia and as IPS Compact elsewhere. It runs on a Novell network and offers pagination using Xpress or a pc-based layout system.

IPS Press. The system developed by ISGI, called IPS Press, is a client-server system using Informix database software running on Hewlett-Packard Unix workstations. (In the future, ISGI will support Siemens Nixdorf workstations using MIPS R4000-series processors. Oracle will serve as a database option. Clients will run under Unix or Windows.)

The Unix workstations use elements of FrameMaker software for editorial and pagination functions. There is a reduced-function, single-story-only version called IPS Editor Plus. The ad makeup workstation is AdOne, originally developed by Nokia in Finland, but ISGI has since taken over the source software.

A few years ago, ISGI contracted with the Hamburg-based development group Pape and Partner for a number of separate modules for the planning of

ad pages and for classified pagination. This project was later taken over by ISGI and now resides with its Unix workstation group.

In any system configuration, the main workstations are Windows pcs. The database can run either on a Unix or Novell server.

The new advertising client workstation is impressive. It makes good use of Windows, using multiple interlinked screens instead of one cluttered screen. The system automatically moves the operator through the various screens, depending upon the choices made. The calendar for selecting publication dates appears flexible, allowing multiple publications and multiple zones (editions).

Pricing is kept separate from the main application, enabling easy customization to meet the needs of each newspaper.

Display and classified ads. For designing display ads, there are two options. First is the system's own ad design tool, which has its own composition algorithm and is used for simpler display ads. Alternatively there can be a link to an ad makeup system, either ISGI's AdOne or another system.

There are also links to the system's ad layout software for allocating space in the page dummy. This ad page geometry can be exported from the layout module into Xpress.

Any unplaced ads can be dragged and dropped manually in available spaces. Then classified pagination can be run. Ads can be flowed starting with the front or the back of the publication. The system will handle multicolumn classified ad entries in the automatic placement process.

After the pagination pass, the system generates a report of the volume of ads placed and not placed, by classification.

Editorial. The client editorial system, which also runs on Windows pcs, was shown with an Oracle database. The first stage in pagination is to lay out pages, taking into account the color setup of the press. The system supports a layout library, where layouts are stored and accessed for later use.

As the layout process unfolds, colors are used to show the status of various areas -- those yet to be allocated, etc. Red, green and yellow show page status against deadline.

Article space on the page can be assigned to specific writers and editors. Text is assigned to the specific shape. H&j takes place in the workstation, after which over- or underset lines are reported. However, the overflow isn't shown. The article can be previewed. A new layout can be dragged and dropped onto the text in the old layout, and the system automatically rebuilds the page to the new layout.

Quark-free zone: KPS, MarkStein deal 3B2

Keller Publishing Systeme GmbH (KPS), a distributor for 3B2 in Germany, demonstrated its ad production system based on the 3B2 composition engine. KPS also invited MarkStein Software to demonstrate its new editorial pagination system focusing on small newspapers and magazines, where 3B2 might be suitable.

We have always been impressed with the 3B2 composition system, which has been used in a variety of other editorial applications. It seems to work well for display advertising too. It is notable in its degree of openness, which includes the source code and data format. Any type of change can be made to tailor the application to the needs of the customer.

Another interesting aspect is that it stores all data in ascii format, which has several ramifications. First, everything in an ad can be searched, including text, image parameters and composition commands. Second, other applications can open 3B2 ad files and update the data within the ad.

MarkStein Software. In 1990, MarkStein Software began working on editorial systems targeted at magazines and small newspapers. It currently has ten installations of the dos system, split evenly between the two markets.

At IFRA, it demonstrated Redline, a new Windows product for page layout and publication planning. An editorial system for Windows will follow next year.

The page layout software, called Seitenplanung, works with Xpress or

3B2. It is in beta testing at two sites, one magazine and one weekly newspaper. It includes full-page layout functionality and the ability to accept a complete publication plan from the second module. The plan includes color positioning and other information to control positioning of graphics and heavy color ads on backing pages, and other similar concerns in planning a large publication.

Ads are placed in the publication either through another advertising system or manually by dragging and dropping them in place.

The planning software, called Strukturplanung, determines the press configuration for a particular publication based on the advertising budget, color requirements and statistics for editorial and advertising mix. Once the configuration is set, the standing pages and logical sections of the publication can be assigned. The software also supports the placement of inserts.

KPS Keller Publishing Systeme GmbH, Hansaring 28, 48268 Greven, Germany; phone {49} (25) 71 5 20 82, fax {49} (25) 71 5 07 92.

MarkStein Software GmbH, Hintergasse 2, 64319 Pfungstadt, Germany; phone {49} (61) 57 73 62, fax {49} (61) 57 73 82.

Linotype-Hell teams with Kodak

Linotype-Hell and Kodak shared a booth in which they showed how the two companies could work together, which illustrates a new effort by Linotype-Hell to form cooperative partnerships. The highlight of the stand from a product standpoint was the new Topaz ccd flatbed color scanner, which we covered in depth in a recent article (see Vol. 24, No. 3). The Topaz optical system illustrates the cooperative effort between the two companies.

Linotype-Hell also held a news conference to outline some changes in its distribution strategy and to preannounce a computer-to-plate system scheduled for release next spring. Those items will be covered in our next issue.

Business units. The company has organized itself into separate business divisions, each concentrating on a specific market area. At IFRA, the focus was on the Publishing Systems Division, which covers newspaper and magazine markets and whose primary product is the Linopress system. With the new organization, the work of each division will be project-based, thus giving its project managers complete responsibility for projects involving Linotype-Hell and its partner firms.

Partners. Linotype-Hell announced that some companies with which it has cooperated in the past are part of its partnership program. They include Pape and Partner for ad and page planning, Hasselblad for picture wire services, URW for logotype generation, Digital Collections for text and image archiving, and GFI for commercial edp. The company emphasized that the partnerships aren't limited to these companies, and that the Publishing Division will integrate its products with other systems and components when a customer (that is prepared to pay for it) requests it.

Linopress. Linotype-Hell previewed release 2.2 of Linopress software, due for release next spring. The system currently handles Xpress pages and Creator ads as eps files. In 2.2, there will be links between Linopress and both Xpress and Creator through Apple Events to launch the applications. Data from those two programs will be saved in their own file formats, but the header for the data will be held in the Linopress database.

Other new features of 2.2 include the ability to run text around irregular shapes, automatic handling of complex tables, improved spelling checking and enhanced production of ad pages.

All ads allocated to a page will be shown in a separate window. These will be dragged and dropped onto the page using the mouse or keyboard. Pagination will allow for flowing ads from the back or front of sections, and there will be controls over classification headers on repeat columns or pages. Linopress is one of a number of systems to have an interface with the PlanPag software from Pape and Partner. This is almost becoming a standard in parts of Europe, particularly Germany. This will be implemented in three phases.

The first phase is to transfer the ad information from the Linopress database into the PlanPag system, which will produce a paper plan. Phase

two will be to transfer geometry back to Linopress. Phase three is to port the Pape code into the Linopress workstation, instead of running it in the Sun Sparc.

#### Mactive works on ports, editorial system

Much of the news from Mactive Development of Sweden focuses on increasing its flexibility and compatibility with various environments. It is porting its AdBase application, written in Pascal, to c++. After using DEC hardware and an RDB relational database, Mactive is porting the database to the Sun platform and Informix relational database. Its German distributor, Vision, already is using Sun and Informix.

Some server applications, written in Pascal (i.e., the server isn't used only for the database), also are being converted to c++, a port that should be completed soon, according to Mactive.

There are no plans to port the main application to the pc. It remains on the Macintosh platform, except for AdBooker, which is available on the pc.

The company is working on integrating Creator into the system, but Creator's closed nature has been a problem. The new ACES capability should facilitate matters here, though, we presume.

Finally, Mactive is adding editorial software to its suite of products. It was too early to evaluate the new system, so we didn't get a look at it. But we plan to visit the company in the near future and report more at that time.

One reason for developing the editorial system, according to Mactive, is shortcomings in existing products, such as QPS. (However, Mactive's Vision German distributor is selling QPS as part of its newspaper systems.)

There was no news on the classified pagination front (the AutoClass module) except that there are more than 40 customers in Europe using it. It is sold as a stand-alone application.

#### Mai integrates 3B2, ad booking, billing

Mai Satz- & EDV-Systeme was one of two German integrators showing Advent's 3B2 pc composition software. Mai did its own translation of the software for Germany, but we understand that the products are basically the same.

Mai uses 3B2 as an advertising composition and makeup module for a versatile newspaper system that includes commercial software for newspaper advertising and related business applications -- essentially ad booking and billing. It is possible to enter ad billing information and copy into the commercial software and switch to 3B2 to compose the ad.

The ad taker's software includes a series of predetermined formats or styles the ad taker can apply to the copy. The 3B2 software picks up the size of the ad and formatting information from the ad taker module and composes the ad.

The link between the two modules is actually a script generated by the commercial software. The link works in both directions, so it is possible to change the size of the ad within 3B2 and have the commercial software updated automatically.

The composition program is the standard 3B2 module, version 4, operating under dos but not Windows, and also available for Unix.

Mai's license fees for the pc version are DM8,400 for a single user, DM34,900 for five users and DM59,900 for ten users. Mai also sells TeX. Bundled with 3B2, it is priced at DM1,640.

For Unix, license fees are slightly higher: single-user, DM9,660; five-user, DM40,135; and ten-user, DM68,900. TeX for Unix, if sold with 3B2, is priced at DM2,180.

#### ManMedia speeds data access

We enjoy being surprised at shows by interesting products from new or relatively unknown companies. We found just such a company at IFRA.

ManMedia is the new marketing name for a Norwegian system supplier and developer, Menneske and Media. This company, in operation for a few years, is known as one of the most successful system integrators in Norway. It serves as the Norwegian P.Ink distributor and supplier of systems for handling Yellow Pages advertising for Norske Telekom. It also provides media systems to Norwegian television and is a market leader in medical

computing using multimedia.

Mount Software. ManMedia showed its Mount Software systems, which address the problem of data access speeds when using sql relational databases. Mount Software enables any number of users to access concurrently any standard relational database while maintaining incredibly fast access times.

The magic is achieved by running a very efficient, separate search engine in parallel with the sql database, allowing nearly instantaneous browsing of the whole database and retrieval of data. The system works for every type of data, including full, free-text retrieval within the nonindexed text of stories or captions. It is able to support many data types because of the very general database structure and user interface.

The engine. The search engine is a specialized chip mounted on a card for inclusion in the database server. The database can reside on a Macintosh, a Power Macintosh, a Windows pc with a Windows sql server, or a Unix engine with Sybase or Oracle database software. The search engine has its own ram, into which the database header and the text of the data is copied whenever the database is updated. More than one search engine can be resident within a database server.

Any search then can be requested by a Macintosh or Windows client. The search is carried out at a speed of up to 160 mb (yes, 160 megabytes) per second. As an example of the speed of the engine, we searched the whole of Henrik Ibsen's collected works in less than 0.2 seconds and found it contains 589,342 spaces.

Unlike normal sql searching, there is no limit to what can be searched, as there needs to be only one index for searching, the database locator held within the search engine. The database is queried only when the user knows what to ask for, having searched and browsed the relevant data through a Boolean search interface that allows searches in header fields, text or both, from the search engine's read-only version of the data in the database. Only when the data are retrieved does the database perform the necessary record locking and notification to other users as required.

One benefit of Mount Software's raw speed is that it makes possible some innovative functions not feasible with normal sql databases. One such advantage is the "hawkeye" function -- the ability to post requests for notification when certain kinds of information arrive in the database. In a standard sql system, if a number of users post multiple requests, all of which require monitoring the database every few minutes, the resulting load on the database could bring the system to a halt.

The ManMedia approach allows an extremely large number of requests to be posted and still provides an immediate response to the user whenever data consistent with the request arrive in the database from any source. Another possible use of the search engine is to filter all PostScript data using hawkeyes to look for typical setup errors in the data.

MountList. To access the search engine and database, ManMedia has an application called MountList, which runs on Macintosh and Windows computers. It provides one general interface to all data on the network, and allows users to log on to several databases at the same time.

The user interface is similar to the spreadsheet view of companies like P.Ink and Dewar, but it is totally configurable. Columns can be selected and moved to different positions. Any column can be sorted by any criteria. Column locking is supported; for example, a left margin can be locked while remaining columns are able to be scrolled horizontally.

Cells can expand vertically to accommodate data. It is possible to store different selections and views, window positions and sizes. The ability to change the row height in a column allows for directories of any length to be displayed in a copy-tasting situation in an editorial environment. This feature is also applicable when viewing graphics or pages. MountList allows for the selection and viewing of any type of data.

Graphics. MountList software is extremely fast in handling the display of jpeg-compressed eps images. This is readily apparent when viewing saved eps pages, which can be scrolled through extremely quickly. The ManMedia software (which was developed for handling jpeg images in real time for use

in Norwegian Broadcasting), handles the compression and decompression of jpeg, mpeg and QuickTime file formats on the fly.

The system reads eps pages directly from the server and can show the status of work through a colored overlay on top of the eps images. This function, called MountDummy, can work with single pages, single pages displayed as an array, page spreads and imposed pages.

MountWriter. MountWriter, the writing and text-editing module, isn't intended to be a word processor like Word for Windows. But it is an efficient writer and editor with impressive features for tracking changes in a document. It is designed for use in medical and legal applications, as well as editorial environments where accurate revision tracking is essential.

Within MountWriter, text is never physically removed from a document. If it is deleted or cut, the text is invisibly redlined, but it is still there. New text may be easily identified by its yellow color, which is normally invisible to the user. New versions of a story are created whenever header information belonging to a story is changed. The user interface provides full access to wire services and other stories. Wires are editable, but changes have to be saved as a new story. As MountWriter is an element of MountList, the full search-engine capability is available to any user given viewing access.

The display fonts can be changed, local style changes are permitted and a line count based on user or system specifications is generated. However, because this is a writing system, not an editorial system, it provides neither h&j nor direct access to the layout or copyediting functions of an editorial system. It is designed to work with other such systems, including P.Ink, QPS, etc.

The ManMedia products can be employed as systems in their own right or as elements that can be included with other systems. It was interesting to see the number of organizations looking at these systems. It seems this technology is being viewed by other vendors and also users as ideal for restructuring some approaches to handling and managing data.

Mediasystemen supports Windows

For many years, Mediasystemen has been moving progressively toward becoming a total database system company. It now has one of the best overall database approaches of any supplier in the industry.

What Mediasystemen offers is an object-oriented database that it claims is an extension of the normal client-server module. In the past, we have referred to this as a client-client-server approach, but, in reality, it is a client-server-server approach because in front of the main database is a front end of additional application servers that handle object management among the interface, the client and the data server. The data server is used for data only and is isolated from the application, but the data are held in a fault-tolerant environment. The application servers handle items at the system level, including mail. Messages are piggybacked on client requests because the server can't send directly to the client on an application layer.

Forum. Mediasystemen refers to this multilevel approach as Forum. A system-level technology that runs across all applications, Forum handles electronic mail and messaging; system reporting; spooling and printing over the network; communication with clients; h&j; user management; auditing and routing; file protection; data management, including integration of server applications; and basket operation.

Mediasystemen says one advantage of Forum is that it makes it easier to enlarge existing systems. To add client workstations or increase the system's capability to handle applications, it is necessary only to add midlevel application servers, rather than to increase the power of the servers to take on more of the application role.

Forum functions are presented to all applications in an easy-to-use manner through the object manager, which runs within all applications.

A Windows world. One of the key developments we saw this year from Mediasystemen was an almost total switch to support for Windows in all applications, including AdLine, its ad booking program.

AdLine has always had a unique flavor in its use of SmallTalk for the



client program, which allows for substantial customization of the application. This year, it featured a Windows interface, with the application still running under SmallTalk. The benefit of the Windows interface is that it enables full integration with other Windows applications. That integration is already evident in two areas: The text editor used for booking advertising is now Word for Windows (see later coverage of the Uniq editorial system), and display ads are now made up using Xpress.

A convenience feature AdLine now shares with some other vendors is the link between the ad booking system and Xpress. After an ad is booked, Xpress gets the size of the ad so it can automatically create the correct-size box for the booked ad. In the future, Mediasystemen will supply AdLine with the Dewar CharmXT Xtension for making up ads.

AdLine's link with Xpress also brings up an ad text window for text already entered, plus a picture window for images to be used in the ad. Then, when the ad is saved, there are options to create automatically a low-resolution version of pictures for use in page assembly, and to work with the Lithos opi system to handle substitution of high-resolution data at output time.

Uniq links editing, h&j. Another core development with Windows is in the Uniq editorial system, where Word for Windows is now offered as the editing program, linked to Mediasystemen's Justif h&j software. Mediasystemen has chosen not to offer wysiwyg editing. Instead, it uses a special font for optimum readability and displays special characters and icons for commands. A fast wysiwyg preview of the full article is supported using atm and the Justif composition module.

The functionality of the composition and preview is very good, but Mediasystemen is considering enhancing it to work in a similar fashion to the CText Dateline system. There, the preview display is automatically updated whenever the user temporarily stops typing. Once this has been implemented, Uniq will provide an almost immediate wysiwyg view using exact composition.

Word is used for some other functions, including supporting split-screen operations during copy tasing.

Argus for tracking. The final new item from Mediasystemen was its Argus workflow tracking system. Argus is being developed according to the guidelines for the interconnection of production tracking systems that are part of the IFRA initiative. Mediasystemen is a member of the group discussing these standards.

Argus is built around a proven engine that is part of the Forum environment. All types of objects that are to be tracked are specified: publication, page, item, ad elements, etc. The user sets up filters to limit the tracking report to certain items of interest -- such as all elements that are past deadline -- chosen from a variety of criteria.

Many aspects of the system are customizable, including the alerts that can be set up, the format of the display and the layout plan, which shows variances from the schedule, items in progress, a detailed plan of activity, etc.

The flat plan shows the whole page. Clicking on the page displays the status of all page elements. It also can be used to show, for example, all display ads that are booked, since it works in conjunction with the PlanBuilder ad dummyping product used by Mediasystemen.

Sybase triggers from the database can be used to update the object database that is a part of the tracking engine.

Argus is not yet completed, but from what we saw it looks comparable to other products in the market.

Overall, the Mediasystemen system is complete and is one of the most advanced systems on the market. Its object orientation sets it apart from many competitive products, and that, coupled with its intermediate Forum server level, appears to offer a scope for scalability not available in many other systems.

Memphis. The Memphis page design and page makeup system hasn't changed, apart from the fact that it now runs as a full-screen window under Windows. It doesn't have the Windows user interface or allow other Windows

applications to appear on the same screen. But it allow users to switch between Memphis and other Windows applications, and to cut and paste text between them.

Memphis can be used to create page layouts to export to the Unix workstations for accurate, layout-driven pagination. Memphis uses the same Justif composition that is used by all Mediasystemen applications. H&j runs within the applications, but is available through Forum as a network resource.

Multicom: company on the move

Multicom, a seven-year-old German company that has survived well as a niche player, may be on the way toward ridding itself of that image. It has been greatly successful in the tv listings area, claiming to have captured more than 70% of the market for producing German tv listings. It also has made a key installation of more than 170 workstations at the largest newspaper in Austria, the Neue Kronen Zeitung (circ. over 1.2 million).

Beyond that market success, Multicom has its eyes set on moving to true multiplatform compatibility. Having made a successful transition from the Atari platform to Windows last year, it is now planning to add support for Macintosh and Unix workstations to its system offerings by next year.

In taking a page from system strategies of the 1970s, Multicom develops its software from scratch to make it as easily customizable as possible, rather than relying on off-the-shelf components to serve as the basis of its systems.

The Layout Station. To make its systems fast and flexible on deadline, Multicom keeps page geometry and page content separate throughout the editorial process. The page file is simply a list of page elements and geometry, without content. The MultiText LS (Layout Station) accesses the latest version of the story from the database to refresh the screen. The same update happens on output. Storing the content outside the page allows editors to work on the text and graphics until the last minute. Unlike ole 2.0, though, it doesn't store elements in their native formats.

MultiText LS has a nice screen layout, featuring a palette of thumbnails for dragging and dropping pictures onto the page, a full-page display and a wysiwyg editing window. Multicom has developed features such as incorporating irregular shapes into the layout and rotating elements. For creative pages such as section fronts and magazine covers, Multicom has developed a close link to a color workstation (see below).

After the story is assigned a layout, editors at MultiText AS (Authoring Station) workstations can write directly into the story geometry in a preview mode. Story elements -- headlines, captions and body text -- are framed on the screen, and they can be displayed in wysiwyg mode. If a picture has been assigned to the page and is available in the database, it is displayed.

Distributed makeup. All of these features come in handy at the Neue Kronen Zeitung, which uses multiple editorial sites to produce more than seven regional editions, six days a week. The hub is in Vienna, where all pages are created, regional stories are assigned and formats are distributed via isdn directly to the remote editorial offices. Multicom has written its own software to route files directly to the remote sites, without having to use Windows applications outside MultiText.

Tv listings. Certain aspects of the production of tv listings have made it an application not for the faint-hearted. It involves serious database issues, access to a new set of special characters to handle the channel numbers, tabular formats with unusual straddles, and the need to accommodate changes up to the last possible moment, among other things. TV Guide in the U.S. has been using custom software for years. LaserMaker made a specialty of fulfilling the requirements of TV Data. In Germany, Multicom has played that role.

It has created many complex composition formats, even including one for programming id numbers for the automatic vhs programmers. The format is based in part on looking at the starting time of the movie.

Digital Design link. For heavily designed, color magazine pages, Multicom has integrated its composition and layout software closely with the Digital Design station from Dr.-Ing. Kaj Hojring. Since we last covered

this product several years ago, it has added the capability of creating text shapes with dummy text for the MultiText system. By using the same MultiText h&j software, new type and corrections can be done on the Digital Design workstation while still maintaining the integrity of the editorial database.

Multicom GmbH, Dachauerstrasse 37, D-85232 Bergkirchen/Feldgeding, Germany; phone {49} (81) 31 56 50 0.

Monotype, GBT roll out editorial system

With editorial systems these days, it is a rare occasion when a supplier comes up with a really new approach to how systems should operate. P.Ink did just that three years ago. Dewar did it with DewarView. Now, perhaps, we are seeing another one in GBT's Mets.

Remember GBT? . . . the early innovator in Europe with networked pc systems? . . . the company that eventually became the UK market leader in installed systems? . . . the company that became a part of Monotype and, with the demise of Monotype (before its resurrection by the IPA Group), was acquired by QED in the first of many IPA acquisitions?

Many people assumed that GBT had quietly disappeared and that QED would take over all its sites.

Not so. GBT was reduced in size and went to work within the QED operation. It dropped development of its classified system, since QED's Q-Sales was also a networked pc ad system. Instead, GBT continued working on a new, Windows-based pc editorial system.

We had seen a very early preview of the system last year, but IFRA marked its official rollout.

Meet Mets. The specifications for Mets sound like most other suppliers' new systems: pc clients running Windows, Word as the editor, Xpress as the composition and pagination engine, etc. The database on the server is an sql-compliant relational database.

What makes Mets unique is its implementation -- its approach to the interface and how it links separate components. Although it is targeted at new customers, Mets supports the existing GBT Mentor customer base. The Mentor system can be seen as a mounted file volume on the network.

Mets doesn't use conventional directories, or even the spreadsheet view of the database that now appears in most systems. Instead, it uses a Book metaphor to build the interface to the database, the routing system and the link between applications.

The concept of the Book is similar to a Filofax, Time Manager, etc., in that a user sees pages in the Book that can be flipped over, torn out and selected through section dividers on Book pages. These replace menus for all functions. Clicking on a page brings up the relevant section icons for different items -- story name, initial text lines, depth and date. Another click expands this or brings up a help screen.

This operation is controlled by a scripting language that allows the user to extend the functionality. At the bottom of the Book are a number of icons, referred to as gadgets. These gadgets act as intelligent objects and handle items such as copy routing. To use them, a story is pulled from the Book and dropped onto the gadget. If this is an out tray or a destination, a selection window pops up. Spiking completed stories is a gadget function, which allows for automatic story deletion using timed events.

Users have their own customized toolboxes, which can have other Windows applications linked into them. For example, Cardfile may be used to handle contact information relevant to a specific journalist (see photo).

Word is the text editor, which includes a customized user interface that provides just those functions a particular user will need. For instance, both standard Word functions and special Mets functions can be in the tool bar. A new story is opened by clicking on an icon, which brings up the story header box to set up the database record. For importing copy into Word for editing, the story icon in the Book is dragged from the box into the Word page area to open the story within Word.

Further information can be torn as pages out of the Book and moved to other parts of the screen, where they can be locked. When such an item is locked, a pin icon is shown holding it in place. If Mets is connected to an existing Mentor system, the Book allows Mentor data to be seen, and a

Mentor editor window can be opened.

One feature we like is the virtual scrolling within Word. The mouse, not the scroll bars, is used to move around the page, even in going off the screen.

Working with Xpress. Xpress is used for page design, editing and pagination, with the implementation depending upon each newspaper's particular needs. For ad planning, Mets works with the QED Q-Plan ad dummyping system. An Xpress template is opened, incorporating however many pages are required. The Split tool then breaks the document into individual Xpress pages. The ad plan is imported from Q-Plan or another ad planner, and page ads are assigned to pages. Ads are assigned by dragging them from the Book onto the Xpress page and placing them, either manually or automatically based on rules specified by the ad planner.

The Dummy Xtension then automatically pulls completed ads onto pages in their appropriate positions, or it can poll another system to bring across the ads after they are created.

To work with editorial text boxes, the Build Story Box tool is used. In this situation, Mets works differently from most other vendors that use Xpress. Other vendors use Xpress's normal box- drawing and linking functions to build shapes. In the Mets approach, the story space is created by defining the number of columns, their depth and the style sheet to be used. It is possible to specify whether there are headlines, bylines, body copy, graphics, captions, etc., with which styles would be associated. If no depth is stated, the box defaults to the size required to reach the bottom of the page or until it meets another object.

Linking the story-box area on the page through the database and to Word automatically generates the slug line and sets up the area in which to write. A story box set up in this way can be stored in a library to be accessed again and placed on a page.

The Mets approach looks very easy to use, fast and accurate. And, it ensures conformity to a house style.

When pages are assembled, the stories in pages of the Book are dragged and dropped onto the relevant layouts on the Xpress page dummies. Specific Book pages can be set up to hold all the text and images for a page. If more than one person is working on a page, the page can be split into separate elements, with each user having part of the page locked from other users. Xtensions handle creating rules between columns and story boxes. Joins, rule weights and styles for rules can be selected.

At the present time, h&j is done within Xpress. Depth counting is done algorithmically within Word. In the near future, the QED Xtension for using Xpress on the network as a background h&j engine will be ported to run under Windows for use by Mets. This will then allow h&j to take place within Word, using the Xpress style sheets. This will permit exact layout-driven pagination.

Boxfit and Copyfit. Two other Xtensions from Q-Edit will be ported to Mets. These are the Boxfit and Copyfit modules.

Boxfit will fit a box exactly to the size of the text, according to the layout and style sheet. This means that if a story is assigned to be of three legs, each balanced, the box will be created in one operation, rather than having to adjust the three boxes constantly to fit the three legs.

Copyfit will fit text to an assigned area, subject to maximum or minimum parameters. This ability allows specified amounts of negative or positive vertical justification to be applied automatically to fit a story.

Database. The Mets database is obdc-compliant and uses sql as the access language. Two implementations will be offered by GBT. For smaller and medium-size systems, the database will run on a Novell server (Pentium), using Btrieve, with Watcom sql.

Larger systems will run on a Unix box, with Sybase or Oracle. This enables sql searches of the database to be run, and there will be a range of standard sql requests set up, where only the parameters need to be changed to generate the database request.

The use of an obdc database approach permits a wide variety of report writers to be used. Mets also can be linked with the Monotype MGS3 image and opi server, thereby supporting a Book view of the image data, in the

same fashion as text, and dragging of image thumbnails out of the Book onto the page. Mets also uses linking to other Windows applications, so an image-editing program will be launched by selecting the image.

Another feature that is being demonstrated, but is not fully completed, is page tracking. The tracking feature displays page thumbnails in Xpress and shows each page's status. In the future, deadline control for different page elements will be added. It will use color to show the status.

Pricing. Mets looks like an impressive new system. How it will fit within the IPA approach is something we shall have to wait to see. The pricing appears competitive. The database setup, minus any database license fees, is Pound sterling 8,000 (\$12,800); the writer application, including Word for Windows, is Pound sterling 1,400 (\$2,200); and the subediting and pagination software, including Xpress, is Pound sterling 2,900 (\$4,600). Hardware is additional. The minimum writer-editor workstation is a 33-mhz '486.

Monotype, QED offer Sybase option

Like GBT, QED is part of the Monotype Systems group of companies under the IPA wing. Its Q-Edit system is now offered either with the AppleShare filing system or with a Sybase database running on a Sparcstation. The first installation is at FET in Antwerp, Belgium, where the database runs on a dual-processor Sparc-10, with 70 Mac clients. One benefit of Sybase over Apple's HFS is that it supports dynamic directory building based on users' specific needs, updated continuously. The functionalities of the Sybase and HFS versions of Q-Edit will merge next year.

New Q-Edit facilities are in the directories, where a user specifies how much to see, such as the header plus five lines of text. There is an audible warning of data arriving in a directory if that directory is open at the time. Any change in status of an article can set a flag to notify other users. Other directory tools enable selecting multiple items from directories and linking them as one item. This is particularly relevant for building copy for news briefs.

The Editor can send copy to Xpress over the network or within the workstation and receive back h&j'ed copy, showing how it is composed against the layout, with overset or underset conditions indicated. Other developments with Xpress allow for style sheets to be at both a text or paragraph level, allowing specific style changes at the character level.

Xtensions. Two impressive Xtensions were shown. The first one takes a block of prepared text and automatically builds a box (or boxes, in the case of a multicolumn format) to exactly the correct size. This allows a user to take a text block and apply a style sheet to form three legs with balanced columns -- a nice timesaver, compared with adjusting box sizes interactively until a fit is made.

The second Xtension, called Copyfit, adjusts text that has either overset or underset lines in a defined area and expands or compresses it by varying space at specified points (e.g., by vertical justification).

ND Comtec appears as an integrator

When the Norwegian company ND Comtec lost its place as a competitive system vendor, it left its organizations in other countries without any centralized source of direction. They were on their own in finding new ways to operate to avert failure. For example, the UK office changed from being a system vendor to being a system integrator.

As a result, ND Comtec's own presence has shifted and now reflects the products that these other operations have started to market. For its IFRA booth, the company brought products being used in system integration, such as Polaroid's SprintScan 35 scanner, MacVonk-Paranthesis Phrasea image archiving system (see pp. 52-53), ArriSystems' ImagiScan scanner and Imagician Pro accelerator, and Managing Editor Software's AdDirector and PageDirector.

Also in the booth were parts of the Quark Publishing System, for which ND Comtec is a system integrator.

Quark Publishing System. ND Comtec says it has sold and installed three QPS systems in the UK. A seven-user system is installed in Northcliff, where it is used as a remote local editorial office. Text

created and edited is transmitted to another system at a local newspaper.

The other two systems are larger, totaling 66 users, installed at the Westminster Press in Swindon.

ArriSystems. Prior to IFRA, ND Comtec obtained the distribution rights to ArriSystems' products, including the new ImagiScan scanner (developed by the former ImagiTex operation sold by DuPont to ArriSystems) and the Imagician Pro Macintosh accelerator.

We covered both of these products at Seybold San Francisco.

P.Ink polishes system with version 2.4

P.Ink showed version 2.4 of its Press system, which includes some minor changes to round out a very complete system. For example, some header fields have been made obligatory to force the operator to fill them in before activity can proceed. Such fields come with popup menus specifying the available options.

Earlier versions had a problem handling double-page spreads because the software treated a page area as fixed. The new version introduces the idea of a "virtual page" to use space outside the single-page area. It is possible to lock virtual page areas to prevent copy from being placed there.

Changes to the wire-service system enable stories to be routed to multiple sections rather than just to sections specified in the wire header. In other words, automatic wire routing can be overruled.

Also new is support for drag-and-drop functions to move copy from the editing program to the page.

Routing control has been extended to be sure that, before logging off, a user is warned if there is a story that hasn't been updated. The user then has the option of stating whether or not the status should be updated before logging off.

Another new facility is the automatic updating of pages that are saved as Xpress pages. This means that when the page is opened, it checks all the articles to see if there is a later version in the database. If so, the user is given the option of using that story if needed. We could see this facility being built into an auto function.

Earlier this year, P.Ink introduced the capability of handling layout-oriented pagination, but the display just represented text as lines. Now it can be zoomed to give a wysiwyg preview. Graphics are shown as monochrome low-resolution images. The use of the layout display linked with the P.Ink Editor allows most work to be paginated without having to use Xpress. Xpress is used for the more graphical pages, where text runarounds are required, and for final page assembly and output.

P.Ink Press has two different systems for page planning and tracking: Pape PlanPag and a homegrown system for smaller publications. In the latter case, the user defines the publication date and edition, and then assigns elements to page areas. This allows for mixed schemes in which different area templates are used on separate parts of the page, thus accommodating different column grids on a page. Page areas are assigned to departments and color areas to their respective pages. In the future, P.Ink plans to have press configurations as part of the system. Page designs can be stored as templates.

Coming next. In the next release of the software, it will be possible to assign stories to specific writers, rather than just assign areas to a section. The next release will also introduce control aspects to the system, with color-coding to reflect status. This will allow viewing of finished pages.

PPI focuses on planning, press controls

In the area of page planning, Pape and Partner Informationssysteme (PPI, not to be confused with the U.S. company Publishing Partners International) has established itself almost as a standard in many parts of Europe. We first saw its software at IFRA a few years ago, running on a Sun workstation on the ISGI stand. This software was written specifically for ISGI, but since then Pape has developed additional software that is sold through other vendors.

This year, PlanPag version 3 for ad booking and page dummyming, with links to ad systems, was shown by Linotype-Hell, Multicom, Atex and

Crosfield-DuPont. PPI also has an agreement with P.Ink, but the software wasn't demonstrated.

PlanPag 3, with its AdPag component, handles ad planning, production planning and control, and classified pagination. It includes ad booking facilities, but it alternatively can be linked with other vendors' ad booking systems. The software runs on Sparcstations and supports the Sybase database. Clients are either Unix workstations or X-terminals. There will be a Mac client by the end of the year.

Pape is moving into a much wider area than just ad and page planning. In addition to PlanPag 3 and AdPag, it offers ProCon, a production control system that provides links to platemaking, the pressroom and the mailroom. It is linked to press control systems to hold press information in the database and to update the systems with data from the prepress planning area. It also can be linked to the control systems from the mailroom to provide an optimized setup for this equipment.

Most of this software is customized for different configurations of print and mailrooms and for planning the platemaking processes. On the Crosfield-DuPont stand, the PPI system appeared as a controller for plate production.

#### Quark releases QPS 1.1

The big news from Quark -- issued perhaps more with a sigh of relief than with a blare of trumpets -- was the release of QPS 1.1. It was shown both in Quark's own booth and in the booths of several resellers. Version 1.1, which includes a host of new features and refinements (most of which we have covered in detail over the past year), is available in U.S. English and in ten European languages: Danish, Dutch, Finnish, French, German, Italian, Norwegian, Spanish, Swedish and UK English.

Customers using version 1.01 will receive an automatic upgrade to 1.1. QPS 1.1 is fully compatible with Xpress 3.3.

Windows support. Quark also announced broader support for Windows within QPS. This is particularly important in Europe, where Windows is used widely in newspaper and magazine publishing (quite evident at IFRA). Quark is developing a Windows version of CopyDesk for use in QPS systems.

Quark plans to release soon a beta version of the QPS Quark Connect module with support for Windows applications. It plans to make the release available to designated European test sites before the end of the year. Quark Connect for Windows means that users of Word and eventually other Windows applications will be able to check files into the QPS Dispatch server for tracking and routing in the system.

Quark Connect for Macintosh currently supports files created by selected versions of Word, Illustrator, Photoshop, Creator, Search, FreeHand, Fetch and Cachet. The specifications for connecting third-party applications to QPS using Quark Connect are available to developers.

What Quark hasn't announced is the ability to use Xpress for Windows in the QPS environment. While this remains disappointing and restricting for some sites, we have been advised by Quark to stay tuned.

Lack of Windows support hasn't stalled QPS sales as much as you might think, although the ability to run the majority of the QPS modules on a pc is bound to attract interest from those who wouldn't consider QPS before. (There are no plans to move the Dispatch server software to any other platforms.)

AutoCheck. One important QPS feature under development that wasn't included in the version 1.1 release is called Dispatch AutoCheck. This is a mechanism for gathering multiple files and automatically checking them into the Dispatch server -- certainly a more productive procedure than checking files into the server manually, especially for wire-service input. (We understand, however, that there is an Xtension developed by Creative Systems Engineering of Paris that performs a comparable function, but we haven't seen it in operation.)

Customers. Quark reports that there are around 150 QPS sites worldwide. These range from newspapers and magazines to universities, department stores, miscellaneous retail operations, national associations, direct-mail companies and catalog publishers.

In the direct-mail category, Publishers' Clearinghouse recently

installed a QPS system (a single Dispatch server and 74 user connections) for its workflow-management capabilities. The system was purchased from DeskNet, a New York-based QPS system integrator.

As the installed base for QPS grows, so does the number of QPS Xtensions developed both by customers for inhouse use and by third-party developers for resale. Several of the third-party Xtensions were available for demonstration in the Codesco and XChange booths. QPS version 1.1 bundles in a few free Xtensions, including some for the Dispatch server and several for CopyDesk.

SaxoTech: 25 modules and Apple's HFS

Although it wasn't exhibiting at the show, we spent some time in a hotel suite with the Danish developer SaxoTech. We had seen it at a small Danish show a couple of years ago when it introduced its SaxoPress publishing system. At that time, it was serving as a link to an ND Comtec system. Today it is a full-fledged, complete system.

SaxoTech, a spinoff from Denmark's largest Apple and third-party computer reseller, ComputerMac, has been in operation for three years. The majority of its shares are held by ComputerMac, with the rest in the hands of SaxoTech's management. Its systems are installed at one German and five Danish newspapers. Besides developing systems, it is the only Quark Publishing System integrator in Denmark.

Basic shell. SaxoPress consists of 25 software modules to handle most aspects of newspaper production. The core of the system is SaxoBasis, the shell that links the various modules. This includes the filing system, built around Apple's HFS, and copy routing and management functions, such as setting the paths between the respective folders for specific publications.

The user can establish various folder sets containing one or more paths to certain folders on a server. The contents of the selected folders are displayed in what is called the survey window of the individual modules. Folders can be made date-sensitive, so they will be seen only in relation to the date of publication. They also may be made content-sensitive, so only users with the applicable software module can see and read the folder's data.

Article module. A key module in the operation of the system is the Article module, where all copy for a specific publication is placed. This copy can be accessed by the SaxoText text editor or transferred with any attached pictures for makeup on Xpress page templates. The Article module contains a survey window that displays articles organized to show only those that are applicable to the page or publication in question.

Text editor. The SaxoText text editor works similarly to some other Macintosh text editors, most notably those of QED and Talbot. They use boxes at the left of the screen to show the specific formats of the chosen style --headline, byline, intro, body text, etc. Associated with each of these items is a text box, in which the operator places the text of the headline, byline, etc. The text then automatically picks up the correct style.

The text editor provides a convenient means of writing and checking headlines, choosing formats and copyfitting all elements. Copyfitting is done by algorithm, not using the final h&j program, because the main composition is handled by Xpress and SaxoTech hasn't written a link to access Xpress h&j for this purpose.

The editing module supports routing copy, seeing an article's history and reviewing previous versions.

Wire services. SaxoPress has written its own modules for handling wire-service text and image data. They are linked directly into the filing system. Text is converted on entry into the Saxo format and routed according to header to the appropriate folders. The survey window allows users to specify what they would like to view, perhaps based on time, such as to view only the last two hours of copy.

Selected stories can be opened directly into the SaxoText editor, from where a style can be applied and assigned to a page basket.

The wire module has a built-in indexing function for incoming data, so full-text searching can be carried out. There is also a Hawkeye function,



where a user can prepare a set of words to be looked for in incoming copy, which, if found, can be routed to a particular folder.

The wire-photo module has four separate modules: receiver, picture adaption, browser and makeup for automatic placement of pictures on Xpress pages. The receiver module is customized for specific wire agencies. The format for storing objects is determined by the customer (eps, tiff, dcs, etc). Picture-manipulation functions include cropping, rotation, resizing, color separation, curve adaption and compression.

The catalog (browser) gives a view of up to 30 images at a time as thumbnails. From this, full-resolution pictures can be selected. It is possible to add notes to each picture and use them as captions. The picture module is an extension of the wire browser; it allows users to analyze all available images and to select and route those to be used. It handles scanned images as well as wire images.

Xpress page makeup. For making up pages, SaxoPress makes effective use of Xpress, providing good control through the Layout Module. The survey window is used to review all Xpress page templates. An operator who wants to access a page double-clicks on the icon in the survey window to open the page in Xpress. Articles to be put on that page appear in the specific page folder for that page. It is possible to specify the order in which articles should be placed, such as to link articles, as might be the case with news briefs.

Then the operator clicks at the top of the area on the page where the articles are to be placed, and the page automatically is built according to specifications. Pictures that are in the page folder are placed and, if a caption is linked to them, a caption box is automatically generated.

As items are put on or taken off the page, the status changes. Whenever a page is saved, a thumbnail of the page is created for use in the Layout Module to view pages to check their status. This appears to work well. It provides status checking as a standard element of the system, without having to plug in an external tracking system.

Other modules. The system contains many other modules we didn't have a chance to look at, including some separate Xtensions; an ad dummyming system for laying out ad pages; an administrative system for the manager; a search system for articles, pictures and Xpress pages; and a converter for bringing in text from other editorial systems.

From our brief look, SaxoPress appears to have developed a very comprehensive and well-designed newspaper publishing system. The company went to IFRA to look for distributors to sell the system outside of Denmark. It will be interesting to see how it fares.

SaxoTech, Hobrovej 42D, DK9000, Aalborg, Denmark; phone {45} 9816 3100, fax {45} 9816 3644.

#### Scitex

See P.Ink for the latest on P.Ink Press, which is part of the Scitex product line in various parts of the world. Scitex owns 25% of P.Ink.

Sypress ad system still one of the best

Last year, we called the Sypress system one of the best overall systems at the show, especially in the area of advertising. The editorial system may still need some improvements. The advertising system, which goes far beyond a traditional advertising system, ties together all information related to advertisers, sales, marketing, circulation, etc., in one unified database. It also provides the tools to produce the necessary reports, on both the screen and the printed page.

The system includes the following subsystems, all linked to a common relational database.

#### Editorial system:

- \* Editix -- text input and editing.
- \* Wirix -- communication to portable pcs and news agencies.
- \* Sportix -- creation of sport tables.
- \* Diarix -- news event management and shift planning.
- \* Arcix -- text and picture archiving.

#### Advertising system:

- \* Plannix -- ad sales planning and monitoring of results.
- \* Contix -- target marketing and contact management (also used in

editorial work).

- \* Reportix -- creation of reports, on both the screen and paper.
  - \* Adix -- old version of ad booking tool.
  - \* AdProducer -- ad booking in Macintosh environment.
  - \* Linux -- booking and production of liners, semi-displays and display ads; handling of quotations and preliminary bookings.
  - \* Creatix -- creation of classified and semi-display ads.
  - \* Matrix -- management of ad material and services and their invoicing.
  - \* Customer Account Master -- creation and maintenance of customer account masters for both transient and contract customers.
  - \* Contract Handling -- part of Customer Account Master for handling of contracts.
  - \* Logix -- storage and retrieval of graphics and logos.
  - \* MacLogix -- storage and retrieval of graphics and logos in a Macintosh environment.
  - \* Voicix -- automatic telephone receiver of ads.
  - \* Billix -- invoicing of published ads.
  - \* Nedix -- newspaper planning.
  - \* Classix -- classified pagination.
  - \* VIP Classix -- pagination of complex classified pages.
- Other products within the advertising system:
- \* Workflow -- management of work queues, such as credit and supervisor queues.
  - \* Cross-field Validation -- add-on to Linux and Customer Account Master for validation of input information.
  - \* Bad Phone -- bad phone and credit checking.
  - \* Class Close -- closing of classifications and publications.
- Production Management System:
- \* Prodix -- planning, scheduling and monitoring of the production process.

Circulation system:

- \* Cirix -- managing sales campaigns, subscriber services, invoicing, mailing, transportation and delivery.

Handling ads. One new feature for handling ads is better budgeting tools. It is now possible to make budgets on the basis of each salesperson as well as each advertiser. In either case, they are divided by month, profile, etc.

For special advertising campaigns, it is also possible to group advertisers according to all classification criteria, e.g., branch, number of staff, class, postal codes and telephone area codes. A group can then be used for direct mail, and the result can be merged with a letter created in Word.

For each ad order, it is now possible to record the advertiser, the agency, the creator and the customer to whom the invoice should be sent.

In the area of publication dates, the system now keeps information about each product and each date an ad is to be published. An ad can then be booked in all products with the same order.

Further, to each classification, ad type, page, width, etc., it is possible to link a specified typographic style.

With Logix, Sypress's system for handling images, it is possible to have images (e.g., logotypes) stored by classification, advertiser or global considerations. Included as part of the image-handling software are routines for purging logos that no longer are being used.

Logix also can manage the native files for images. What it doesn't support is editing images. Instead, images have to be edited in whatever application they were created, e.g., Photoshop, Illustrator or FreeHand. It is possible to launch the necessary application from within Logix.

New also is the possibility of handling images in formats such as eps, jpeg, tif, bmp and gif.

In the area of pricing, Sypress has been improved to give the ad taker better information on how an ad has been priced. A new feature is an automatic price premium if a logo has been used.

In handling ads, Sypress has added a function called alias tables. It

provides certain "sorting criteria" for overriding the normal sort. The tables consist of words appearing in an ad and corresponding words under which to sort the ad, much the way equivalent expressions can be set up with text-retrieval systems. For example, the table can specify that various models of Volkswagen (Golf, Jetta, etc.) can be listed to sort under Volkswagen, even if the ad doesn't contain the word Volkswagen. Then an ad with the text "Excellent Golf for sale, DM20,000" would sort automatically under Volkswagen in the classified section, without the user having to do anything extra.

Editorial. One of the improvements in the editorial system is the way directories are created and displayed. It is now possible for each user to define a personal directory layout. Each directory can specify the type of material to be included. For example, it can show everything for the same page or all articles in section two.

There is also a mail feature that can be used, for example, to send a copy of an article from a directory to another user.

The article header can now also be customized by user.

For page makeup, it is possible to drag an article from a directory and drop it in place on a page in Xpress.

Classified pagination. Sypress had had an application for classified pagination with the name Classix. New this year was VIP Classix. The difference from the "outside" is that the original product runs on a standard Windows pc, while the new one runs on a Sun workstation under Unix.

Inside the system, two key differences are that Classix works directly with the Sypress database and uses Xpress as the finishing tool for page makeup as well as for output. VIP Classix, on the other hand, isn't tied to the Sypress system at the same level as the rest of the products; it fetches the necessary information from the Sypress database (complete ad data, including geometry, with the real ad). VIP Classix includes page finishing and PostScript output drivers.

Both products are batch pagination programs that automatically place the classified ads and, at the same time, display the result on the screen.

After pagination, VIP Classix merges the pagination data with eps files of each ad, adds horizontal and vertical rules between ads, and creates a final page file that can be sent to a proof **printer** or an imagesetter from the VIP Classix workstation.

VIP Classix was developed at VTT in Finland (the Technical Research Centre of Finland). It is being installed at Dagens Nyheter (circ. 400,000) in Stockholm, Sweden, as well as at Algemeen Dagblad (circ. 380,000) in Rotterdam, the Netherlands.

If we compare the two products, VIP Classix is more interactive than the older Classix. Classified ads are arranged under each classification heading, subheading, etc., which will appear in a predefined order. The user can alter this order.

The interactive pagination allows the user to pre-place ads or modify the automatic placement on the screen, using filler ads, standby ads and vertical justification.

According to Sypress, VIP Classix will produce a better and more compact page than the standard Classix product will, especially when there are a lot of large liners or semi-display ads.

VIP Classix also includes better user control.

On the other hand, because Classix is connected directly to the Sypress database, it is possible to see the paginated classified page on the Classix workstation (a standard Windows pc). Also, if a partial classified page has to be merged with a partial editorial page, it has to be done on the Xpress workstation.

To do the same using VIP Classix, the classified page first has to be stored as an eps file, which can be called and placed on the Xpress page, with editorial text added on top of it.

In order to use Classix, ads under specified classifications have to be selected and sorted in the system. The result is then used for pagination.

At the time of the show, Classix was limited to paginating from back

to front, but Sypress said that restriction would be eliminated soon, when front-to-back pagination is supported.

After pagination, the user can check the screen to see the ad with real content. Different representations can be selected from a menu -- different colors for classifications and subclassifications, spot-color and four-color ads, and production status.

Another interesting feature is the possibility to flip the content in a column, from the cursor position to the next heading in the column. The utility of this function in real production is up to the user.

To minimize the space between ads, there is an automatic function for placing filler items. Sypress admitted, though, that this feature currently isn't very useful because the algorithm hasn't been optimized, with the result being a lot of space is wasted. So it is better to place filler ads manually, at least until Sypress improves the algorithm.

As you can see, there is a lot of room for improvement with the Classix. Sypress said there will be new versions coming that, for example, will better handle classifications containing fewer adds and will produce a more compact page.

Sysdeco, ex-Comtec staff, unveils system

If the name Sysdeco is unfamiliar, the reason is probably that it is new to the media industry, although the Sysdeco Group has existed since the beginning of the 1980s. Sysdeco Media AS, a wholly owned subsidiary of Sysdeco Group AS, was founded about a year ago, when the Norwegian company ComIT went into receivership. Most of its employees have experience with the ND Comtec-ComIT operations, so it constitutes one of the strongest professional environments involved in developing and supplying systems to the graphic arts industry in Europe during the last 20-25 years.

Sysdeco Group AS. Sysdeco Group AS is a public company, traded on the Oslo Stock Exchange since the spring of 1993. Founded in 1982-83, it is one of Scandinavia's leading suppliers of programming tools. It possesses special expertise in the development of large information systems based on relational databases and geographic information systems (gis).

The gis application area may turn out to be particularly interesting to the media industry because of the needs of newspapers. This was certainly evident at IFRA, where Sysdeco showed a gis system as part of an advertising system (or a combination of an advertising and a circulation system). We expect to see such developments become commonplace within the next couple of years.

An interesting application of gis technology is editorial graphics in which detailed maps locate the scene of a news story, such as an accident.

Sysdeco's gis systems are used today for controlling emergency vehicles in Oslo. They also are used by insurance companies comparing addresses in real-estate work. In some situations, a street address doesn't tell the insurance company enough about the location of an estate. The gis system displays a map on-screen that shows where various buildings or other objects are in relation to each other.

The Group, whose main business is in Scandinavia, Germany and the UK, also has companies in Italy, Malaysia and Singapore. It has grown rapidly and claims to have been profitable in recent years, although the only figures we got were annual revenues, which showed a sevenfold increase from 1989 (31.7 million Norwegian kroner, or \$4.5 million) to 1993 (225.2 million kroner, or \$32.2 million). Part of the growth resulted from acquisitions, as is the case with Sysdeco Media.

The Sysdeco Group today employs 350 people.

ComPress. Development of the ComPress system started during the ComIT period. The concept was to use standard hardware and system software on the server level -- such as Unix (sco, aix, Solaris and DEC OSF/1) -- and the Sybase relational database. On the client level, the system uses PageMaker, Xpress, Word, Photoshop, etc.

On top of these, Sysdeco will include application software not available as standard modules. Sysdeco then adds programming to tie the server environment with the client application, i.e., to make it possible for applications to communicate with the database.

Sysdeco Media's own software, which is called the ComPress WorkBench

(CWB), is available both for Windows and Macintosh platforms. Part of it adds administrative information to documents created with the standard applications. This information is used to manage the documents throughout their existence in the database and during production. The administrative information is stored in the ComPress database.

Today, the ComPress system consists of four different subsystems: editorial, image handling, advertising and production.

ComText. The ComText editorial system handles editorial text, from input based on standard text editors and external sources (e.g., news wires) to final page makeup. As mentioned above, administrative information is added to every article before it is stored in the database. This information is then used to retrieve and manage the production flow.

In order to be customizable, Sysdeco has included more than 70 different fields of administrative information with each article, only about 20 of which are used as standard. Another useful feature is the ability to link one or more images to an article, which will make the image follow the article throughout production.

The layout created in a standard application is stored in the ComText database, accessible by anyone with the right privileges.

Finally, directories are generated either by user command or dynamically by the system as new items become available.

The ComText subsystem is now available.

ComPict. The ComPict subsystem handles all types of graphics -- pictures, logos, illustrations, etc. Besides handling administrative information with each image, e.g., iptc header information for news pictures, the system also includes routines to generate both **thumbnail images** (used during search and retrieval) and **screen-resolution images** (used during ad and page makeup).

As with the ComText subsystem, ComPict includes both static and dynamic directories. Further, the directories can be displayed as traditional text directories or in the form of thumbnail mosaics.

The ComPict subsystem contains the necessary features to be integrated with either a Helios or a Hyphen opi application.

Finally, images that don't need to be kept online can be stored offline on cd-rom or magneto-optical discs, but with the administrative information and thumbnails still in the database.

ComPict is available.

ComAd. The ComAd subsystem is still under development, so we had no chance to get detailed information about it. But we were told that it will handle all types of ads, including taking orders and customer information; ad content; issues relating to production of display ads, space reservation and classified pagination; and connection with the page makeup application and output.

The system, which will be based on an sql database, will have features for sales support and statistics.

Sysdeco projects that the ComAd subsystem will be available in a demo version during the first quarter and as an integrated part of the ComPress system in the second quarter.

ComPlan. This subsystem will handle the complete production planning of the newspaper or other products.

A set of models or layouts for individual publications or editions will be specified in the system, with page, page elements and material category allocated for each model.

It will be possible to make changes to the layout and add or reduce the number of pages and page elements at any time up to deadline.

The input information will be processed by ComPlan, and compared. During production, actual status and deviations from the planned volumes or times will be visible in reports or graphs to authorized clients.

ComPlan version 1.0 is planned for release this month. The first installation, aimed at magazine production and not at the newspaper market, will take place at the Aller Group in Oslo, where ComText and ComPict are installed already. A second ComPress installation is at Norstedts Tryckerier in Stockholm, also not a newspaper. This installation is in its final stage.

Sysdeco Media also is installing a newspaper system at Aarhus Stiftstidende in Aarhus, Denmark.

Future for old ND Comtec users? Because many of the Sysdeco Media employees have their roots within the walls of ND Comtec, there is an interest in building a system that could be hooked up to, or could be a migration path from, the aging ND Comtec Nortext system. It's too early to tell if Sysdeco Media will provide such a product.

It is also unclear how much of a market there is for such a system. At the time of the financial collapse of ND Comtec, there were a lot of complicating factors in the market, including uncertainty about future ownership, which have caused many ND Comtec customers to find their own ways to achieve pagination or otherwise keep their systems productive. Some have joined forces with other system integrators.

Since it is possible that the number of customers looking for a Sysdeco-type solution isn't as large as some people might think or hope, Sysdeco Media might have to start from scratch in building a customer base.

Conclusion. How would Sysdeco Media do as a system vendor without a significant customer base to build on? ComPress is an interesting system, not only for old Nortext users. But, especially in view of the amount of work that remains to be done before it is complete, is there a market for a system based as much as possible on industry-standard software and hardware?

The company's best shot appears to be in Scandinavia and the German speaking parts of Europe, where it already has its own companies. But will that pay the ongoing costs? The Sysdeco Group's strategy for the media market is to be more international and thereby increase the customer base to draw from. It will be a long haul, but it doesn't look impossible at this point.

SII, with Chapter 11 over, starts beta tests

Ready to emerge from Chapter 11 bankruptcy reorganization soon after the show, System Integrators announced a new division: the Professional Services Division (PSD). Its goal will be to find ways to offer familiar services with a new zest.

Now that its court dates are behind it, the most crucial step for SII is the upcoming beta testing of its editorial and classified systems at the Oklahoman and the San Diego Union, respectively.

The good news is that the MTX Layout workstation has found a home for beta testing at the Oklahoman. The bad news is that SII can ill afford any more delays in getting its pagination workstation running in production sites. While there has been movement regarding the MTX since Nexpo, the most critical period for the painfully slow evolution of the pagination product line will be during the next couple of months. The beta version of the software has been delivered. SII expects to be able to release version 3.0 early next year. (The "3" reflects the fact that it was built on other Interactive News Layout developments.)

Even assuming all goes well in the beta tests, SII will then be faced with a formidable challenge. According to management, versions 4 and 5 will attempt to duplicate Xpress functionality in the areas of complex design features such as rotation, knockouts and shaped composition. The challenge of reinventing the wheel, however, has never daunted SII before.

Page tracking. We found several additions to MTX Layout since Nexpo: the beginning of page tracking, graphical directory palettes and drag-and-drop functions.

While page-element tracking is a critical function in the editorial process, it hardly poses harsh technical or creative hurdles to software developers. Like most newspaper tracking packages, SII's metaphor for page status is a skeleton of the page with elements depicted in various colors. There was one added twist in the form of a pie chart divided into three sections, with various colors indicating status of news, graphics and ads for each page. When the pie is green, the page is ready. Views can be combined, such as to superimpose the pie chart on top of the skeleton view.

After building a view of a particular set of pages from the database, a process that takes a minute or two, the software will have a refresh timer to update status automatically from the database.

The preliminary tracking software we saw will be the basis of the beta project, but it obviously will go through some metamorphoses during the next few months. While it is early to judge this product, it is quite apparent that SII will need to invest a substantial amount of effort to catch up to the Xtension products offered by companies such as Managing Editor.

Other changes. Regarding the other changes, such as palettes, tool bars and drag-and-drop functions, the most notable is the palette.

Handling photographs is a natural application for directory palettes, but for now, SII will leave the sophisticated picture desk searching and retrieval technology to the vast number of other vendors in this field. It will be content simply to provide filtering and displaying techniques for the pictures already budgeted for publication. (SII automatically handles the production issues of graphics. When pictures are submitted to Synthesis 66 for pagination, thumbnails are created for the viewing palettes, the high-resolution data are sent to Scoop, SII's opi server, and the low-resolution version and header are stored in the pagination database.)

The palette metaphor has been applied also to stories and composition formats. Graphically depicting formats, composed stories and pages offers a significant improvement over conventional lists.

ATMX for advertising. The dazzle of the new generation of advertising software comes more from a new graphical interface than from revolutionary functionality. Feature development involves the movement of functions (credit-card processing, display ad makeup, account status, circulation functions) from other departments to create one full-service advertising workstation.

The ATMX developers use IBM's Rexx (similar to Visual Basic) as the primary tool for specific user applications. The system department in San Diego is working on a small development system to evolve into improved ways of building ad-taking forms, schedules, macros, scripts, database interfaces and billing programs.

The speed of the advertising database, a traditional SII strength using Tandem hardware, has become less of a focal point. Most ad-taking functions have been distributed to workstations.

The debate over whether to use a full relational database or a faster database as the core of an advertising system is controversial. SII, Cybergraphic and many other vendors with large installations recommend creating a duplicate of the advertising information on an sql database for mis functions. This thinking allows standard applications such as Excel to perform the report-generation functions now creating many fancy reports for the publisher. The primary benefit is that the publisher gets all the financial reports while the phone room is not affected.

In addition to mis functions, many other traditional cpu hogs have been offloaded to either the pc or a local application server. The Tandem server will perform rate scheduling and management of the classified advertising database.

When the classified system is connected to a more modern business system, the individual workstations can use dde links and sql queries to go directly to the business system database and access billing and contract customer rate schedules.

In the initial, large configurations, SII is linking several workstations to an application server connected to the Tandem database. While this might be a common network architecture for large workgroups, we will need to see it in operation to assess the ability of this topology to handle a large phone room on a busy day.

Back to the future. Many years ago, the purchase and support price tags for large systems implied dedicated, full-time support from the vendor. With the proliferation of desktop approaches, the need for system support (either inhouse or from the integrator) has been greater than before. However, the high profit margins that used to fund heavy support costs have evaporated.

To fill this need, independent integrators with much lower overhead have entered the scene to offer assistance with smaller support projects. The traditional vendors had to turn away these jobs because they had more

important work to perform (such as making their new system installations work so they could get paid for them). However, the small integrators, in aggregate, contribute enough revenue that they can't be ignored any longer.

According to Robert Strack, SII's vp of customer service, who will be heading up a new division aimed specifically at this market, SII had been turning away requests involving smaller projects at the rate of 6-10 per month. SII found it difficult to justify re-allocating staff from larger-scale projects to justify the smaller revenue streams.

The new SII Professional Services Division (PSD) was created to form an independent staff dedicated to address requests for training, temporary resources for on-site SII system management services, pagination consulting, application development, and project management in converting from older systems to newer desktop approaches. Using a dedicated staff composed of full-time existing SII staff, subcontractors and even ex-SII employees, it expects to address any task, no matter how small.

The initial goal will be to create a network of resources to field the current requests. Eventually, a marketing effort will be put together to actively pursue projects. It will not limit the tasks to SII projects. It will offer its experience in pagination and other areas of newspaper publishing to all newspapers.

Out of the woods? The black cloud over SII the past year appears to be passing -- at least, so the company hopes. SII's reorganization plan was approved, and the company emerged from reorganization soon after IFRA.

The results are mixed. The company is now owned predominantly by the Bank of America and Citicorp Bank.

A new board of five directors is being assembled. Bill Aaronson, SII president, will be one. There will be one independent member and three others appointed by the banks.

The debt has been reduced from \$80 million, when it filed last year, to \$20 million. While, at the outset, this radical cut might seem extremely positive, remember that the annual revenues and gross margins have been cut dramatically from when the \$80 million debt appeared reasonable five years ago. In today's market, the \$20 million debt may be as substantial as the \$80 million was five years ago.

On the bright side, while forecasting no new business in 1994, while it was in bankruptcy, SII received several major orders and reported more than \$42 million in revenues. If these sales figures are an indication of product acceptance, this is positive news. If the sales are an indication of notoriously frugal newspapers bargain hunting again, it may mean nothing.

No Whirlwind. The one other piece of news timed approximately with the IFRA show was that SII's bid to acquire the Whirlwind product line from DuPont didn't materialize. No official explanation was given, but according to rumor, the due-diligence step prior to a formal acquisition agreement turned up something that clouded the issue. SII had never announced its intentions in bidding for the Unix-based editorial and classified systems, although the lead user (the Houston Chronicle) is a long-time SII editorial and classified customer.

Unisys aids Hermes, edges toward Xpress

Unisys turned up with some useful enhancements to its Hermes system, which continues to be impressive, although it uses a lot of Unisys's own software, rather than supporting standard packages. It is a comprehensive editorial system with a link to a Unisys advertising system. It uses client-server architecture, with a Sybase database running on Sparc hardware. The clients are all Windows pcs.

The system appears to be very scalable. The largest configuration sold, which is now running live at La Voix du Nord, in Lille, France, will comprise 500 workstations linked to twin SparcCenter 2000 servers. All the application software, including the text editor and pagination, is developed internally by Unisys.

Enhancements. Changes this year include items to promote convenience and productivity.

\* Configurable icons in all applications. Icons can either float or be fixed to the top or left of the screen. The user can design and scale the



icons.

- \* Layout catalogs. Page layouts can be stored in catalogs acting as a library of available shapes and styles. There can be multiple catalogs in a system, and separate catalogs for different parts of a page. A layout can be changed by applying a different catalog; the text within the previous layout will immediately adapt itself to the new layout.

- \* Auto element names. The system automatically names elements applied to pages through association with head or tail elements of the layout.

- \* Editing modes. The text editor has had some detail changes, including the use of color to support Atex-like modes, which are visible in the text display but not in wysiwyg mode. Colors can be shown or hidden.

- \* Redlining. The editor supports redlining, with new text in a different color. Each user in the workflow process can be assigned a different color when an article is being reviewed to see who generated changes, where they occurred and at what time.

- \* Configuration support options. One of the nicely planned support enhancements is the ability to set up a number of automatic page functions. Specifications could indicate how many days must elapse before a page or parts of a page can be purged, how they should be purged, etc. This allows purging not just published data, but also unpublished data.

- \* Workflow designer. The workflow designer shows graphically how to set up the workflow to move fitted or nonfitted copy to the next stage in the editorial process.

- \* Permissions. Permissions allows easy selection of functions individual users can access. It specifies which publications, sections, etc., a user can access and whether access permits reading only or reading and writing for different elements of publications.

- \* Software distribution. Software distribution, a server-driven function, allows users to have their software updated automatically, rather than updated manually workstation by workstation.

Pagination and archiving issues. Hermes has its own layout and interactive pagination, tightly integrated with the text editor. In many respects, this offers functionality superior to Xpress's. However, users still demand a way to integrate Xpress files. The method that is available holds the Xpress file as an uneditable eps file. Unisys says, though, that in the future the system will have the capability to interchange both layouts and text between Hermes's pagination system and Xpress.

Last year, we were told of plans for an archival system. This year Unisys announced Doc-Center, which is based upon IDI's BasisPlus for text, and image management through Sybase. We were told it also will support video, sound, etc. It will have a range of configurable fields and browse functions to navigate around different subjects. At the present time, text and graphics archives are separate systems, but they will come together next year.

URW moves into ad makeup

Best known for its extensive typeface library and other font-related activities, URW also develops and markets full software applications. The best known of these is Signus, a quality-oriented application for making signs.

Lately, it has been branching farther from the font realm. The latest foray is a new generation of software called AdMaster, targeted at display ad makeup. Based on Signus, the new software, written in c++ for Macintosh, Windows and os/2 computers, allows users to manipulate and compose display ads from a hierarchical database of objects. These objects can be individual characters, lines of text, groups of lines, layers or total graphics. Each object can have its own set of attributes applied. Objects can be grouped and attributes can be applied to the entire group or to individual components only.

The program includes the same level of flexibility as Signus for positioning and manipulating objects. It is possible to edit text and reflow it. Text also can be treated as a graphical object or a logo and colored, shaded, tinted, etc. Extensive tools are provided for positioning and aligning objects relative to each other. A full range of special effects can be applied to an entire ad or to an individual object. It is

also possible to clip, rotate and place pictures into layouts.

AdMaster is currently in beta testing at a German newspaper site; testing will continue until year-end. Pricing is expected to be DM7,500.

VTT automates Yellow Pages pagination

VTT, a technical research institute in Finland that is partially government funded, includes a group concentrating on the media and printing industries. It appeared at IFRA two years ago, and came again this year to show its developments. The main product for the newspaper industry is VTT Intelligent Pagination (VIP).

Developed initially to handle the automatic pagination of Yellow Pages, it was sold in an early form to Pindar in the UK, which uses a custom-developed version for handling the pagination of all the UK Yellow Pages. Pindar, which has the marketing rights for the program for its market, recently sold it as part of a full system to Telecom Malaysia.

The newspaper version of the product for handling the pagination of rop and classified advertising has been sold to the large Dutch publishing group, NDU (one of CCI Europe's prime customers), which has linked it to its own Nova ad order and management system.

The system will take in lineage advertising from a System Integrators classified system and display ads from Nova. At NDU, the software will run on an IBM PowerPC. Systepo, the Finnish newspaper system developer, also offers the software as its high- end pagination system, part of its Sypress system. Such a configuration is due to be installed at Dagens Nyheter in Stockholm.

The exact way the system works may differ in different locations, depending on union agreements. For example, at NDU we are advised that ads can be allocated to an editorial page, but they can't be placed exactly in position. In other locations, the system automatically places all ads.

The software appears to be powerful and comprehensive, capable of handling almost all needs for ad pagination. With the NDU system, display ad groups and subgroups are shown. Ads are selected from these groups, and the available positions are shown. The user can specify how to filter the position availability list, such as to show only positions for color ads. The flow shape for placing ads is chosen, e.g., triangular from the inside out, outside in, over a spread, etc. For placement of classifieds, the classifications and subclassifications are selected and automatically flowed.

We were advised that the system for Dagens, which will run on a Sparc-10, paginates broadsheet pages at around two seconds per page.

Fax newspapers -- automatically. As further development of this technology, VTT is working on an experimental project to build a fax newspaper automatically, pulling data from a conventional newspaper. This is database-driven; the database holds the topics to be covered. Selections from the main publication are based upon time, interest and what other classifications have been selected.

The current working method uses page area blocks of specific sizes into which to fit text. These shapes allow for fitting modules onto a page vertically or horizontally. Articles are specified according to three criteria, each with a rating of 1-10: importance, size and time. The result is designed to produce page geometry and article calls for desktop systems.

This project is being funded by the Finnish government, three newspapers and two vendors. As well as producing fax newspapers automatically, VTT is considering linking the system to ad databases to select ads automatically and print them, for special selections for houses, cars, etc.

VTT has some other interesting projects that are not within the scope of this report of IFRA. We plan to write about them in the near future. In particular, there are the PageVision system for scanning printing plates and providing a color preview for the press manager, and the PrintSim interactive training system for schools and companies to learn the printing process.

Wilkenson Scoop moves to Windows

We are no strangers to Scoop, having identified it years ago as the first of a new type of editorial system: the complete, shrink- wrapped

solution. Since we first saw the product, it has come into its own and is now sold throughout Europe, rather than just in Scandinavia. Agreements are now in place for Scoop distribution in Norway, Finland, Denmark, Germany, the Netherlands, Belgium, Portugal, Greece, the Middle East and the UK.

Components of the product, mainly in the area of file handling and copy routing, are also sold on an oem basis. The first oem was Atex, which added the Wilkenson file handling and copy routing methods to its Press2Go Quark Xtension package to create its Hot off the Press editorial system. However, Hot off the Press is different from Scoop. It shares only some of Scoop's features.

Setup procedures. Scoop is a well-designed Macintosh system that has become available for Windows. Data are held in a standard Apple HFS format and move between folders. A new publication is created using the New Folder command. A publication is created by setting up the basket structure, backup folders to support the basket structure, and all permissions and privileges. The system also must be told what happens when copy is sent to a specific basket or baskets, such as whether the story should be moved or copied (with a copy remaining in the original folder) and what other actions should take place when copy hits certain baskets (e.g., notification of the recipient).

The operating mode uses five main windows, although when working with Xpress, additional windows may be open, subject to the availability of screen real estate.

Two of the windows -- publications and folders -- are on the left of the screen. Under them is the third window, showing all stories in a selected folder, with their copy depth and character count listed.

The fourth window is the history of the selected story, which allows a user to see who has worked on the story, its previous copy routing and how long each user spent with it. Icons to the left of each history item show the activity carried out.

The fifth window is where all writing and editing take place. Multiple story windows can be opened and stacked on each other with enough overlap to identify the different stories. Within the story area are popup windows for tagging text to identify different elements -- headline, byline, body text, etc., to be linked to Xpress style sheets. A preview window can also be activated. The preview shows how the story will look, in a single-column format, with styles honored, but without h&j. Tags can be generated to add written or voice messages to a story. There is also a clip library, serving as a cumulative clipboard for cutting and pasting elements.

Using Xpress composition. For composition, Scoop uses Quark Xpress. Within Scoop, Xpress styles can be added to any element. Scoop outputs a Quark Tag file to call Xpress style sheets. A Quark Xtension locks data in Scoop when used in conjunction with Xpress.

One function we feel needs improvement is bringing data from Scoop into Xpress. Currently, the two systems are separate. To access Scoop files, it is necessary to use the normal file input procedures within Xpress. We would like to be able to open a Scoop story window from Xpress, using an Xtension, and then drag and drop the story onto an Xpress layout so it can automatically be h&j'ed against the style.

Wilkenson takes a shot. Wilkenson showed a new development called Shot, which takes the same easy-to-operate approach that Scoop has for text and applies it to images.

Shot uses the same five-window Scoop sequence of actions, but it shows **image** thumbnails in window three. A click on the **thumbnail** brings up a preview in window five. A click on the preview then brings up the high-resolution image.

Shot is still in development. We heard about plans to enable double-clicking on the high-resolution image to launch the application that created it.

Shot looks good for editorial users who need to be able to browse images, such as to write captions. In such a case, captions are then locked with pictures, after which a Quark Xtension automatically creates the caption box under the picture in Xpress.

In the same way as Scoop does with text or page files, Shot allows

multiple images to be opened at the same time on-screen to allow them to be compared.

Also like Scoop, Shot will be available in single-user, five-user and 20-user packages. Deliveries are scheduled for early in 1995. The price for a 20-user package will be around \$200 per user.

Output Devices, Fax Systems, Computer to Plate

Although there weren't a lot of vendors showing new output systems, there were some key developments on several fronts. They included imagesetters, where Eskofot got into the market with an internal-drum recorder driven by a Harlequin rip; computer-to-plate systems; and facsimile transmission equipment.

Imagesetters and RIPs

Agfa features Avantra 44, RIPs

Agfa had a big booth in which it showcased a large selection of new products which it had shown earlier in the U.S. at events including Macworld and Seybold San Francisco. These included the SelectSet Avantra 44, the Arcus II and StudioScan II scanners, the Star 800 hardware rip and the MultiStar 2 multiplexer. Other products in the booth included the SelectSet Avantra 25, the AccuSet 1000, the Cobra rip, CristalRaster screening and the XC315 color copier- **printer**.

Autologic focuses on fax, plate systems

Autologic noted that it had installed its first APS-Fax and APS-Platemaster systems in Europe since last year's show. They are at Sydsvenskan Dagbladet in Malmo, Sweden. The installation is configured to handle more than 350 broadsheet pages (separations) per day, with two plates produced for each separation. To meet the specified production schedules, the system must produce at least one plate every two minutes, at a resolution of 1,016 dpi (85-line screens).

The system is connected to a Malardata editorial and advertising system running on Macintoshes and an image production system developed by Hasselblad (see story below).

In the booth, Autologic emphasized the APS-Fax facsimile transmission system in connection with its Platemaster/2820 and the Platemaster/3242, both based on Gerber platesetters.

Among its rip features, Autologic demonstrated fm screening using Harlequin's Dispersed Screening.

Eskofot shows 3600 imagesetter

The biggest news in the Eskofot booth was the introduction of the EskoSet 3600 internal-drum imagesetter, which we had seen at Graph Expo (see Vol. 24, No. 4). As we noted there, the 3600 is the same unit as ScanView's DotMate 5000 imagesetter. The two companies cooperated in its development, with ScanView contributing the optical system and Eskofot the chemical processing system that is housed in the same cabinet as the recording engine. It outputs film and polyester plate materials.

According to Eskofot, the 3600 is the first in a line of imagesetters that will be followed by additional models at Drupa in May.

As we said before, the 3600 is an internal-drum machine with a format of 420x560mm (16.5"x22"), continuous resolutions from 900 dpi to 3,600 dpi, a speed of 5.5" per minute at 3,600 dpi or 11" per minute at 2,400 dpi (making it one of the fastest machines on the market), repeatability of +/- 0.2 mils, a laser-diode light source, two input cassettes online, and an online film processor.

It is supplied with a Harlequin Level 2 rip running on a 90-mhz Pentium processor with 64 mb of ram, a 1.2-gb hard disk and the nt operating system.

An optional Silver Saver Module recovers silver from the fixer. Eskofot's Green Quality Module cleans the wash water, removing silver to a level below 2 ppm and reducing water consumption by 90%. These features make off-line water-supply installation possible, i.e., installation in the office environment.

Price and availability. The new imagesetter is available immediately. The price in Germany has been set at DM160,000, including rip hardware and software. The U.S. price is about \$90,000.

Triple-I, Monotype display latest systems

In retrospect, whose booth was it? Monotype Systems and Information International hadn't really merged because the deal they had agreed on left the front-end-system portion of Monotype with its original IPA owners. But the signs in the booth, advertising a combined product line, suggested that everything was hunky-dory with the impending deal.

Then it happened. Just as records were made to be broken, deals were made to fall through. Or so it seems. Hot on the heels of DuPont's failure to cash in on the System Integrators letter of intent to purchase the Whirlwind product line, Monotype and Information International fell out of bed trying to finalize their deal.

But they had a good show. Triple-I had taken the opportunity of having all of the units in one booth to illustrate how the business units should fit together. But most of it we had seen before, either at Nexpo or at Seybold San Francisco.

We noted that Triple-I's traditional display ad management and tracking software for desktop products is finally coming together. The latest release of software is in beta testing at two sites -- one large and one medium-size newspaper. The software should be available in January.

#### Parascan adds RIP proofer

Parascan's news was the Rip Proofer for soft-proofing pages from a rip. A key difference between this system and Parascan's Paravisual System (see Vol. 23, No. 22) is the lack of page storage in the Rip Proofer.

The Rip Proofer can be installed in an editorial department, for example, from where pages are sent for remote output. It informs the user both if a page will pass the rip without problems and exactly how the job will look, displayed on a color monitor or output on a **printer**.

The system. The Rip Proofer consists of the **Image Builder PC**, the Visualizer monitor and the FXL 50 connection. For the monitor, Parascan offers a large Miro monitor with calibrator.

The FXL 50 is tapped into the existing network or line between the rip and the recorder. From the FXL 50, the Image Builder PC gets a copy of the bitmap sent from the rip to the recorder. The bitmap for each separation, or spot color, is accepted into the Image Builder PC. In the pc, the final page image is automatically assembled to provide a full-color image of the page on the monitor. Once the page image is proofed and accepted, the monitor can be cleared to accept the next page.

Besides being viewed on a large, high-resolution monitor, the page can be output to a monochrome or color **printer**.

Interfaces are available to connect the Rip Proofer to systems from Agfa, Autologic, Canon, Crosfield, ECRM, Information International, Iris Graphics, Monotype, Linotype-Hell, Scitex, Tektronix and 3M.

Price. The Rip Proofer, including the FXL 50 connection unit, the pc, the Miro monitor with calibrator and the necessary software, costs \$20,000, compared with \$60,000 for the Paravisual System. If all you need is a preflight checking utility to see if a job will run through a rip, one can be obtained for much less than this price. However, the Rip Proofer includes a calibrated monitor, which may be important.

#### Computer to Plate

##### Crosfield-DuPont goes computer to plate

Amid Crosfield's many products, we focused our attention on its computer-to-plate offering, in which Crosfield supplies the MagnaSetter 650 CTP system and DuPont contributes the Silverlith plates.

The demonstration was based upon the installation at Magdeburg Publishing and Printing in Bad Homburg, Germany.

The editing system was demonstrated on a Mac and linked through the Crosfield Image Bureau opi server to six Hyphen rips running on Sparc-10 processors. Two Crosfield Wydnet pc controllers handled data compression, communication and switching. Transmission to the print site was over a fiber-optic link, with data decompression by Wydnet pcs.

Output was under the control of a process control system from Pape and Partner. Exposure was directly to three MagnaSetter 650 CTP platesetters. DuPont Silverlith plates were imaged and processed online using DuPont Silverlith SL70 plate processors.

This system is capable of producing up to 135 ready-to-use plates per

hour. The MagnaSetter 650 CTP can handle plates from a minimum size of 440x380mm (17.3"x14.96") to a maximum of 635x457mm (25"x18").

#### Press Control Systems

##### Honeywell manages press

Demands to integrate electronic press controls more closely into prepress systems have increased markedly in recent years. Perhaps this is because of the increase in the number of newspapers being produced electronically, the growing number of newspapers printed remotely, or maybe even the use of computer-to-plate systems. In all these cases, newspaper production operations are bringing more pieces of the overall process into the electronic workflow, which leads people to look for additional ways to do the same. Whether that is part of the explanation or not, we are seeing greater demands for controls to manage the complete process.

The Finnish subsidiary of Honeywell is making a strong effort to advance this cause. Its Printa Production Planning and Management Systems try to handle the whole process, from page makeup at the prepress level to where the distribution (dispatch and transportation) of the newspaper starts. All in real time.

The system is based on standard Intel 'x86 workstations running under os/2. The system is tied together via a network (Novell, Lan Manager, etc.). An sql-compliant relational database is used as the central information hub.

The production status is displayed graphically on the workstation monitors. The system also makes recommendations regarding press operations in view of the various jobs scheduled to be run.

The Printa system can keep track of the times pages are delivered from page makeup, enabling it to do such things as compare actual times with scheduled times. It thus can track changes in production status in the prepress system. In this way, users will be able to get a better overall picture of how well the system is running.

One interesting aspect of the system is the way it handles newspaper imposition. It presumes that imposition will be set up in the press control system, not in the prepress system, although the newspaper design normally is based on the actual ad and editorial bookings.

In order to handle this, the Printa system can supply the prepress system with information about approved newspaper configurations (number of pages, books, four-color pages, spot-color pages, etc.), which then could be used in the ad booking and dummyming system.

Future. It is interesting to see the amount of r&d that is spent on production planning and management systems, both from existing front-end vendors and from the people that traditionally have been involved only in the press and the postpress processes. There are also a couple of new companies entering the field, trying to carve out their share of the market.

We know about some research organizations that are spending money and resources in this area.

If we look back on the developments in the desktop publishing area, we are confident that we will have some very powerful tools for production planning and management available in the next couple of years.

Installation. Besides newspapers using the traditional press control system, Honeywell has a first pilot installation at Helsingin Sanomat, where the prepress system and the press control system are interconnected.

#### Facsimile Transmission Equipment

##### Eskofot expands scanner size to 26"x36"

To meet requests from many newspapers, Eskofot has expanded its scanner line further, adding the EskoScan 2636S, capable of scanning a full-size ad without having to rotate it before it is placed on a page and output. With the earlier 2540 scanner, such rotation was necessary.

Like the older model, the 2636S uses flatbed ccd technology. A 1,024-element ccd array moves across the platen to scan reflective and transmissive originals in monochrome and color.

The maximum sizes of originals are 26"x36" (660x910mm) for reflective and 24"x34" (610x860mm) for transmissive, in thicknesses to one-eighth of an inch (3mm) standard or 1" (25mm) with the optional book adapter. Up to

100 different originals can be batch scanned in the same job.

The scanner supports standard resolutions from 159 to 1,270 lines per inch, and optional resolutions from 80 to 2,540 lines per inch. The time to scan an 11"x17" original is less than 60 seconds for line art at 1,270 lines per inch, or less than 75 seconds per color when scanning contone images at 300 lines per inch. It scans to a depth of eight bits (256 gray levels) for monochrome originals or 11 bits (2,048 levels) for contones. The density range is stated to be 3.0. It supports eight different color filters, 13 levels of unsharp masking and Eskofot's Digital Descreening Software. Interfaces available include Ethernet, fddi, scsi and Hell PressFax.

Eskofot demonstrated its 2540S scanner transmitting data over isdn communications lines to an EskoSet 3600 imagesetter.

Price and availability. The EskoScan 2636S is available immediately for a price of 790,000 kroner. The 2540S costs 676,500 kroner. The job preparation station, which is needed to get the full benefits out of the scanner, is an additional 125,000 kroner.

Inline transmits pages with PageLine

Inline offered no new features for its picture desks, **image**-editing workstations or archiving systems, but it did bring a new system for transmission of pages or page elements. Called PageLine, it enables transferring individual components of a newspaper page, such as text, news pictures, graphics, logos or ads, to the destination in digital format. At the receiving side, the data can either be output directly or buffered for printing later. In part, the options depend on what equipment is used on the **sending** and receiving sides.

Because components of a page can be transmitted separately, it is not necessary to wait until the complete page is finished before transferring the different items.

Handling of source data can be done by Inline's Press Picture Systems or via a network or an imagesetter interface. Output at the receiving side is likewise performed via a network or a direct imagesetter interface.

Scitex shows its large Eskofot unit

Scitex's main new product, which it calls the Monoscan XLS, was Eskofot's new large-format, flatbed ccd scanner handling image input up to 26"x36" in monochrome or color. (See Eskofot for details.)

The unit is available as a line-art-only configuration, in which case it can be interfaced to Scitex Telepress systems for scanning double-broadsheet-size pasteups and films for transmission to remote sites. The scanner can be upgraded to handle continuous-tone images and descreening. A separate job-preparation station is available, comprising a pc and large-format digitizer. It allows one job to be scanned while the next is being set up.

Tecsa: compression and fax transmission

In addition to demonstrating its TS2070 tabletop scanner (see below), Tecsa introduced a new range of compression-decompression cards. Based on a proprietary chip, they will provide substantially greater lossless bi-level image compression than previously available in the prepress industry, Tecsa says.

The new cards, available for Intel and DEC Alpha pcs supporting the eisa and pci buses, plus the Macintosh when it supports the pci bus, are sold under the product name BitSqueeze. The cards are designed to be integrated with rips, opi servers, print servers, scanning stations, page facsimile systems, systems for digital delivery of ads and pages direct from rips, archiving systems and graphics databases.

BitSqueeze will be available from Tecsa directly and from system integrators and oems.

The technology, which is fully compatible with Tecsa's own Pakkit compression, supports PostScript Level 2 compression, CCITT Groups 3 and 4, Packbits (decompression only) and jbig (Joint Bi-Level Image Experts Group), which is an iso 11544 standard.

As a compression algorithm, jbig complements jpeg compression for contone images. The jbig algorithm employs similar techniques to obtain improved levels of lossless compression, in particular on screened halftone

images. According to Tecsa, the technology will achieve up to 40-50% better compression than CCITT Group 4, when dealing with bi-level images.

The BitSqueeze cards compress and decompress files at a speed of approximately 3-4 mb per second, which enables the cards to operate in real time with other processes.

Test results. To get a feeling of the results achievable with BitSqueeze and jbig, Tecsa supplied us with the following information. We have not done any tests ourselves.

The following different newspaper pages were used:

(1) A newspaper page (size 275x372mm or 11"x15"), including five contone images and some linework and frames.

(2) The same newspaper page as above, but scanned at a different resolution.

(3) A classified ad page (size 275x372mm or 11"x15"), including some linework and frames, but no contones.

	1	2	3
Scanned resolution (in dpi)	1,200	1,000	1,016
File size uncompressed (in mb)	29.3	22.3	19.3
Packbits compression (in mb)	14.3	10.45	5.41
Ratio	2:1	2.1:1	3.5:1
Group 4 compression (in mb)	2.98	2.6	0.75
Ratio	9.8:1	8.5:1	25:1
Jbig compression (in mb)	2.14	1.73	0.54
Ratio	13.7:1	12.9:1	36:1

As seen from the tests, the best results are achieved on pages with bi-level information.

Oem offering. Tecsa will supply interface dlls and supporting drivers for operation under nt and Windows 3.1. There also will be extensions for the Macintosh operating system. Application developers will be able to integrate BitSqueeze cards and jbig software into their own products.

Pricing and availability. BitSqueeze technology will be available in Tecsa's own products, first in the Tecfax 2000 system and later in a standard system called PowerPress, used for Digital Page Delivery. It will also be available as an oem product.

A jbig evaluation kit will be available soon for \$299.

Each BitSqueeze card will be supplied with a test and setup program to verify correct operation of the card and to assist installers with pc configurations.

Final eisa bus cards, complete with dynamic link libraries (dlls) and drivers, will be available later this month. Pci bus cards for the pc and Macintosh, complete with dlls, drivers and Macintosh extensions, will be available in the first quarter. The estimated

end-user price of a BitSqueeze card is Pound sterling 2,500-3,000 (\$4,000-\$4,800).

Tabletop scanner. Tecsa demonstrated its TS2070 tabletop broadsheet scanner with three different applications. First, it was used as the Tecfax 2000 full-page transmission scanner, with

on-the-fly data compression inside the scanner to decrease file sizes and increase data transmission speed.

Second, it featured software for batch scanning of ads. New this year were routines that semiautomatically cut up the ad sheet electronically (to the size of scanned ad images or booked ads). The cut-up ads are then placed under the respective ad order number, received from the ad booking system. The software also handles ad images that are larger than the booked ad size, i.e., the ad is scaled to fit within its booked size.

The scanning software includes a dust filter. Information in a scanned image that results in pixels smaller than a specified size is ignored.

Finally, the scanner can be used to scan prescreened, four-color separations (positives or negatives) in register, without the need for descreening.

The software includes routines to generate a five-file dcs image.

RELATED ARTICLE: Innovative Drum Scanner from PVD

A new company to this publication, Partner von dem Druck (PVD), unveiled an innovative drum scanner and a color system called Leonardi. The



more interesting of the two to us was the SpectraScan, a high-performance drum scanner that differs from other scanners in that it contains three drums. They are mounted vertically, rather than horizontally, in the same fashion as the single-drum Itek Colour Graphics 350i.

The main advantage of having three drums, as far as we can see, is in a batch scanning environment, where all three can be set up and left to run unattended, in which case the system reportedly can scan as many as 200 images at high resolution within an eight-hour shift. Each drum's usable area measures 600x450mm (23.6"x17.7"), and up to 100 images can be mounted on each drum. The scanning speed in automatic mode is 30 scans per hour.

PVD claims to have introduced another innovation, this one relating to color fidelity. It says the color filter system follows the human method of splitting color into rgb values, which has a nonmetrically logical distribution of the color spectrum. In contrast, other systems use a metrically logical approach, PVD says. One benefit of PVD's technology, according to the developers, is that the SpectraScan needs to be calibrated only when starting up, never again.

Scanned data generally are not stored in rgb or cmyk format, but rather are stored in cielab or cmy. The generation of the black is normally done at the time of output. Output formats include pvd (the company's own format), rmx, Scitex Handshake, tiff, eps, ddes, Hell and tiff cmyk. Files stored on the Leonardi system are compressed using the Leonardi HighWay jpeg compression card.

Operation. In automatic mode, the SpectraScan uses three scans to produce final data: a prescan to find the images, a low-resolution scan to analyze the images and find the highlight and shadow points, and a high-resolution scan. One limitation of the machine is that all images have to be scanned at the same resolution, so it has to be high enough to allow for all enlargements that need to be made.

The scanning process is controlled from a Silicon Graphics Indy workstation with 96 mb of ram. The other software in the Leonardi system also runs on SGI hardware. Images are scanned directly to disk in a compressed form. During the output process, cmyk data are generated, taking into account the printing profile, or the changes required for special colors. In many ways this is similar to the way Linotype-Hell handles LinoColor 3, but with PVD the data are held in pixel format for all elements, whereas LinoColor only outputs to PostScript.

PVD's color-management system for monitor calibration comprises a fast analog processor inserted between the video output from the system and the video input to the monitor. PVD claims it can be used with any monitor. There are 19 calibration programs, corresponding to various printing methods. Each program set contains the possibility of individual adjustments of the basic cmy values, and of the secondary rgb, as well as the setting of black and white. These sets can be saved and reused.

The SpectraScan sells for DM260,000, which includes the Indy workstation. The PVD approach is interesting, and from what we gather, the company is well respected in the high-quality German market. Whether a small company like this can have any influence on all the changes that are happening in color is doubtful, and it is likely that it will be limited to the high end of the color market.

PVD, which was founded in 1990, has a staff of 14, mostly working in r&d. The founder, Hagen Peters, owns a prepress service bureau that uses a Scitex system. A former president of the Scitex user group in Europe, Peters is known for demanding the highest quality of work from his systems. He has bought five Leonardi workstations to replace the earlier Scitex equipment.

Transmission, Archival and Retrieval of Images, Text

This section has become a catchall for everything that the former wire-service companies and electronic libraries do. So it includes systems for **transmitting** and receiving wire **photos** and text, systems for storing and retrieving text and **images**, and products related to any of those topics. IFRA provided a good chance to see some of the systems that never make it to the U.S. but continue to have importance in the European market. So we are covering a lot of companies whose names may not sound

familiar. However, some of these products will migrate to North America, based on their capabilities.

We won't try to summarize this entire section here, but we will call attention to some developments worth keeping an eye on:

- \* Digital Collections' impressive library facilities, which include hyperlinks, as it gets ready for a U.S. thrust.

- \* GAI's Context Online moving into the newspaper market.

- \* GI's novel storage technology using robots and mixed media.

- \* Newswire (Hyphen) still flamboyant with its newspaper-format display and full-text search based on storage of graphic objects.

- \* The UK's Independent Television News photo service, which it promises to produce near-photo-quality images from video.

- \* Protec's Arcano retrieval system available as a Quark Xtension.

- \* PSI's TRIP database engine for large volumes of documents.

- \* Ratio Entwicklungen's hard-copy approach, with its own scanner.

- \* Reuters's international, multimedia satellite data network.

- \* The Library Solution from Scottish startup Televisual Data.

AFP helps ex-Soviet bloc get photo desks

Agence France-Presse (AFP) was previewing a system developed specifically for former Soviet bloc countries not covered by its photo service. The complete photo agency system, based on its Mako product, will be available in early 1995. At the other end of the booth, AFP's informational graphic services was showing a Windows-based receiving workstation for the first time. Also, as a service to its customers, AFP offers complete picture transmission packages.

One such transmission package fits entirely inside a suitcase-size container. It consists of a PowerBook 540c using 32 mb of ram, a Vfast modem and a Kodak RFS 2035 35mm scanner. The kit includes a copy of Mako to run with all plug-in-compatible software. AFP offers other turnkey packages that include various Macintosh and scanner configurations, such as the Nikon Coolscan and the LS 3510AF.

Like many industries in the former Soviet bloc countries, the transition to a free press requires catching up in technology. One area of need is equipment to start wire photography services in each country. To meet this need, AFP will offer a complete agency system that will include picture desks based on a more robust version of Mako. The picture desks will be connected to a front-end pc online to a Mac using gpib. The Mac server will likely be configured with the 4D database engine. Each remote site will have a decoder pc, a **printer** and a network gateway.

AFP plans to conduct beta testing before the end of the year and hopes to begin shipping early in '95. To crack the German newspaper market, AFP Infografik had to develop a Windows version of its receive software; many German newspapers did not have a Macintosh installed and weren't going to start for AFP. It was demonstrating its latest version running on Windows.

AP adds new features to Preserver

The news at AP was that several new features have been added to the Leaf Preserver since our Nexpo coverage. Also AP is finally launching PhotoStream in Europe and Asia.

The new features, like most additions to mature software, reflect production experience and bring the product more practical necessities than flashy glitz.

- \* Storing searches. Any search string can now be stored based on user profile.

- \* Search on unique number. Even if you knew the unique number, you previously had to enter search criteria to access a photograph. This is no longer the case.

- \* Separate privileges on LeafDesk and Preserver. Until now, each user had the same privileges on the LeafDesk and the Preserver. There was no way to distinguish between a user and a librarian. Now there is a way to limit access in changing data such as status and keywords in the archive.

- \* Search on attributes. The search criteria can now include attributes, such as keywords, city, time, etc.

- \* Accepting keywords. While PhotoStream is not yet sending keywords, it now has the ability to accept them from other systems.

In the area of photo services, we met with Horst Faas, European photo editor, to discuss the progress in offering PhotoStream in Europe and beyond. He said the Europeans are looking for pictures of world events that are either better or different from what they are getting today, approximately 120-160 pictures per day.

To address the varied needs of Europe, AP has the ability to address the specific needs of each community. It uses address codes to send pictures to specific customers. For example, some countries in odd regions are desperate to get their hands on cricket results, while others are not at all interested.

Preserver archives have been set up in London, Frankfurt, Milan and Tokyo. The network will run at 38.4 kb except inside Germany, where it will run at 19.2. Given the small number of photos each day, that may be fast enough.

BKS shows Gecos Scout

On one side of the BKS Mediaprint booth, that company showed its BDS Media software -- business software for publishers of newspapers, magazines and similar periodicals that handle subscription fulfillment, finance and accounting, text editing and other related functions. On the other side of the booth we found an interesting archive system developed by a company called Gecos -- a nine-year-old software development and system integration firm based near Stuttgart in southwest Germany. Like many of the other exhibitors, both Gecos, the developer, and BKS Mediaprint, its distributor, are active only in the German market.

Gecos has four software products: ComLitho, a business application; database software for use with FrameMaker; HAS, an editorial management system; and ScoutObjekt, an archive system based on the Sybase relational database. Scout is installed at two sites: a newspaper and a repro house. The current version is 2.0.

Pathfinder in data jungle. In Scout, a server-based version of Sybase performs the role of data manager. It can store information about any file or object you can store in a file system. Thus, Scout is capable of managing text, images and other multimedia files (sound and video), although the demo we saw had only image files. The objects themselves are not stored in the database. Rather, they can be anywhere on a network, on any variety of storage media.

Scout also performs a basic level of workflow management -- gathering related files or subfiles associated with a master found during a search. At this point, however, there is no formal routing or advanced workflow management capability. When you find and wish to view an Xpress page via the software, Scout automatically pulls the pictures on the page to the screen as well.

In an opi environment, Scout links the high- and low-resolution versions of the images -- via Helios opi or Archetype's InterSep -- and brings low-resolution viewfiles of the images to the display. It also communicates to Helios or InterSep that an opi swap is required on output. If the environment is not standard opi, Scout generates a linked low-resolution viewfile of images managed by the database.

Scout is not shrink-wrapped. It is sold as part of a custom system installation and integration project. Pricing depends on the site and its requirements. An average price -- software only with eight clients -- is around DM100,000, we were told.

Gecos does its development for Scout under NextStep so it is necessary to have one NextStep client on the system (for system setup, management, etc.). Macintosh and Sun clients are supported. A Windows client is in development.

Gecos GmbH, Z.H. Herrn Matthias Meisel, Bayernstrasse 8, 72768 Reutlinger, Germany; phone (49) (7121) 62 89 13, fax (49) (7121) 62 89 62.

Data General gets into the archive act

GFI Gesellschaft fur Informatik supplies business systems to newspapers for managing circulation and advertising and insert sales. But the focal point of its booth at IFRA was archiving software developed in Germany by Data General. (That's right, the hardware company!) The two companies are partners in an effort to provide full solutions for their

publishing company customers. At this point, the archive software is available only in Germany.

DG's AV Image-News software runs, as you would suspect, on a Data General Aviion 5000 or 8000 Unix server equipped with a variety of optional storage devices, including disk arrays, magneto-optical discs, cd-rom drives, worms, magnetic tape or any combination thereof. Clients accessing the archive can be Windows pcs, Macs or Unix-Motif workstations. The AV Image-News software supports scanning of hard-copy documents into the archive, cutting and pasting of information from the archive and indexing -- full-text as well as primary index notations and abstracts for use with third-party databases.

According to the DG rep with whom we spoke, the software is compatible with combination (full-text plus relational or fielded data management) database products such as BasisPlus, BRS Search, Topic, TRIP and Fulcrum.

It supports any A3 desktop scanner plus an A2 Press Archive scanner DG offers (from Ratio via oem channels) and a larger-format A0 scanner from Oce. Intelligent ocr is provided with Kurzweil software, although it is possible to use Calera's ProLector.

The archive currently stores tiff images, Reuters ascii and Munsinger text files from wire services, and PostScript, tiff and text files from a variety of editorial front-end systems. Color images are not yet supported, although DG plans to add this feature before the end of the year.

Using full-text or fielded data search methods, you can search for and retrieve an image, a text file or both. In relevant cases, the page image from which the text file was extracted is displayed in a separate window.

Because of difficulties with the language, we didn't spend a lot of time with this software in the booth. But we were told that DG in Germany is preparing a demo version of the software for the Benelux countries and is making a proposal regarding reselling it to DG in Westboro, MA. However, with the archive-library field getting crowded on both sides of the ocean, we don't see why DG would want to get involved in the newspaper business in the U.S.

The software can reside on a server on a standard network (tcp/ip, nfs, Novell, AppleShare or Lan Manager) and provides gateways to output to multiple printers as well as an electronic mail and fax gateway. That sounds like the makings of an interesting corporate archive.

Dataware shows alpha Mac client, Kinesis

Dataware, which recently announced the release of a client-server version of BRS Search (version 1.1) and a new BRS Search Windows client interface, showed an alpha version of a Macintosh client for this version of the software. The system configuration in the booth was based on a Sun server and included four Windows clients. Dataware expects to release the Mac client software around the first of next year.

Kinesis library. In a corner of the Dataware booth was Kinesis Computing of Swindon, UK, demonstrating its library system, which integrates full-text and relational database management capabilities. The system uses the BRS Search full-text retrieval engine and Ingres to manage relational aspects of a text-and-image library system for newspapers.

The system is capable of managing text, pictures, clipping files and images. It can be extended to manage videos and sound by storing extracts that are captioned in the same way as pictures. Images are stored and retrieved either as Acrobat pdf files or as tiff files. Images can be linked to text files for retrieval and for viewing together or separately.

Searches are conducted via the full-text engine, which allows full-screen browsing of structured fields as well as text files. A **thumbnail** browser for viewing multiple tiff **images** at a time is also available.

The system architecture is based on a client-server model that employs a Unix server connected to clients via tcp/ip. Client software is available for Mac, Windows and X Window clients. Direct links to newspaper production systems, including QPS, are available, making it possible to search the library and move data from it back into live production.

Kinesis sells its library system as a fully customizable configuration based on an individual site's requirements. Thus, it's impractical to describe the user interface, search screens and the like, since they depend

on what the individual customer has requested. The screens themselves are developed by Kinesis using Visual Basic.

A minimum system configuration is priced at around Pound sterling 30,000 (\$48,000) including hardware and software. But systems can run as high as Pound sterling 400,000 (\$640,000) and include hundreds of users. One such large library system is installed at the Scottish Daily Record, a Mirror Group publication.

Digital Collections continues to mature

Little has changed with Digital Collections' software functionality since we looked at it in the Hewlett-Packard booth at Nexpo. We continue to be impressed with its capabilities for managing a library of text, graphics, images, page images, etc. And we find the hyperlinking capabilities for linking text to page images, pages to pages and even QuickTime movies to pages especially interesting.

At the front of its booth at IFRA, the company showed a database it has been working on with the new German newsmagazine Focus. Using built-in hyperlinks, it was possible to move from the publication's table of contents to any of the articles and back again.

We could envision this feature as even more useful if the links pointed to other areas of the database or to other databases in which there was additional detail, background information, etc., about a given topic --similar to the linking we are used to with Mosaic on the **WWW** -- but this capability isn't available yet. We also think the database and search-retrieval engine might be handy for use on cd-rom deliverables. Unfortunately, we were told this isn't in the plans.

The real change at Digital Collections falls into what you might think of as market maturity. The four-year-old company has taken pains to consolidate and reorganize all of its software so that it takes less time to install and support at various sites. In addition, to simplify things from a sales and marketing point of view, it has broken down its offerings into a series of modules that can be installed together or individually.

Modules. The core module is DC-RRE-Database (Reduced Relationship Entity Database), the proprietary database manager on which all other capabilities are based. It runs on Unix platforms (Sun, HP and IBM) and can work in wide-area network environments with distributed databases. There is no limit to the number of users the database can support.

The text module, called NewsDesk, provides online access and extended retrieval features to a variety of wire-service modules for which the company has written filters. Text is received and indexed online by the database.

A complementary module for wire-service picture management, called PictureDesk, handles **images** from sources as diverse as **digital** wire services, **digital** cameras, Kodak **Photo** CD, etc. Iptc header information **transmitted** with pictures by digital wire services is automatically indexed for retrieval. Additional descriptive data for retrieval using thesauruses, etc., are also possible.

The software that handles picture workflow -- such as sending pictures from the library to a workstation running Photoshop -- is called Vernissage. It allows the user to select a picture from the thumbnail view, open a layout view, define cropping parameters and then drag and drop the picture to another application.

The Quark Xtension for archiving layouts, text and pictures from pages made up in Xpress is called PaperDesk. The Xtension strips the data from the Xpress page and brings text as rtf into a word processor, where additional keyword and thesaurus identifiers can be added. An input filter for using PaperDesk with System Integrators and Atex systems is also available. Full pages archived with PaperDesk are linked to their component text and images and stored in the database in jpeg-compressed format.

ELVIS at your service. A final product, called the Electronic Visual Information System (ELVIS), is actually a service Digital Collections has begun to provide to German newspapers, magazines and picture agencies, using its own software. The host system, with a capacity of about 90 gb, and databases that the company has set up for its clients are located in the DC office in Hamburg. Up to 50 isdn or standard phone lines can access

the host simultaneously. Databases from the publications Die Woche, Focus and Forbes are already online.

Digital Collections is working with a German mail order company it plans to bring online next year. The database will include a variety of advertising and promotional materials; photography is in process now using digital cameras.

Pricing. Pricing for Digital Collections software depends on the individual site requirements. The base module -- the RRE-Database -- begins at DM18,000 for an entry-level configuration, plus DM130 for each additional user. Input filters range from DM50,000 to millions of deutsche marks, depending on the complexity.

Client software pricing is based on the module and the number of licenses. For text only, licenses range from DM1,100 to DM1,700. A picture-only client license is around DM1,500. A license for text and pictures is about DM2,000.

Client software is available for Macs only. Text-only client software for Windows pcs is in beta testing at a Murdoch publication in London. Picture-handling capabilities for the Windows client are still in development.

Digital Collections is moving ahead with its plans to open a U.S. office as a joint venture with Gannett. In mid-October Gannett was reportedly ready to sign a site license with the company for widespread installation of DC software at its publication sites. Sites already installed include Gannett papers in Rochester, Shreveport and Des Moines. The only unfortunate glitch in its progress in the U.S. comes from copyright problems; there is already another company called Digital Collections doing business in the U.S. (the former AXS). Thus, the German company will be forced to find a new name for itself in this country.

Diwan MAPS in three booths

Diwan exhibited its MAPS (Media Archiving and Publishing Systems) software in three booths: Reuters, Linotype-Hell and QED. We've seen MAPS often --most recently at Nexpo (see Vol. 23, No. 22) -- and we remain impressed with its versatility and ease of use.

MAPS can be bolted onto an existing publishing system (or database management system) as a way to manage and archive scanned photos, text, sound and video images -- QuickTime clips, jpeg-compressed files, page files, pdf files, etc. Think of it as both a media management tool for daily use and a tool that can generate and access or browse an archive.

The key to MAPS's versatility is its compatibility with the dal/obdc standard for communicating with other database management systems. These can include Oracle, Sybase and Informix, as well as databases like IDI's BasisPlus, which supports full-text retrieval and fielded data objects.

We took a close look at MAPS Tools, which is actually a programming language with a graphical user interface for configuring the system, i.e., setting up media channels and scripting workflow and processing. It can be used as a stand-alone product with other archives. In fact, Diwan is looking to license it as an oem module for use with any dal/obdc database.

Tools lets you set up and run multiple channels at one time from the Mac, all piping to the same database. A new AutoDelete channel we hadn't seen before can be used to delete materials from one channel and move them to another, such as from the production picture database to an archive.

Diwan now offers the MAPS Browser as a stand-alone module (just as other browsers can look at a database setup with MAPS Tools). In the near future, the company plans to give away, on the **Internet**, a low-end version of the Browser. Both the Browser and Tools modules are currently deliverable. U.S. pricing remains the same as at Nexpo: \$12,950 for five Browsers, one Tools manager and an sql server, which can be used as a starter database or discarded.

GAI moves into newspaper market

New to the newspaper market, GAI Informationssysteme has been installing full-text retrieval and multimedia archive systems primarily in the corporate and government sectors. It has installed systems at the German Department of Defense, the German Parliament and Daimler Benz.

Appearing in the Sun booth, GAI showed its Context Online system,

intended to provide news-management and multimedia-archive capabilities to newspapers.

It was running on a Sparcstation IPX server with a Windows client. However, the server software can run on any Unix risc hardware. Clients can be Unix workstations and X-terminals.

The system provides full-text search and retrieval of news stories via the Fulcrum full-text engine. Like many (but not all) of the archive-library systems we saw at IFRA, Context Online provides impressive search capabilities.

Using the search software, it is possible to browse and search news wires and add selected (or all) stories to the database. These are indexed immediately as they are entered. It is also possible to set up a series of search criteria to monitor news wires and inform the user, with a "blitz" or flash alert, when a story appears that fits the search criteria so it can then be reviewed and entered into the database.

In addition to full-text retrieval, it is possible to search for articles using keywords. The user can browse the database index on-screen to verify that the keyword is actually in the index. In addition, a phonetic search is available to help with keywords for which the spelling is uncertain. A thesaurus also is available as a search aid.

Frequently used searches can be saved for later use in the database; these too are indexed automatically. When the desired text file is found, opening it automatically launches a word processing application.

Database contents themselves may be organized into multiple collections by whatever criteria the site requires. In addition to managing text, Context Online software also saves facsimiles of tiff and jpeg images and fielded data; pictures can be stored as individual objects or they can be linked to text files. Facsimiles of scanned pages can also be saved in the database and processed as text using ocr software.

Pricing for the software depends on the number of simultaneous online users. A minimum configuration with four clients begins at about DM20,000.

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Innovations in storage technology at GI

Not many people like to spoil the fun of building the information highway by asking practical questions, such as where in the world are we going to store millions of hours of zillion-byte-per-minute multimedia files? And what happens when the development pace of storage technology makes the heyday of the eight-track tape look like a millennium? At this point, a mechanical marvel from Grau may help answer both questions.

Now that system integration is a thriving business, in one booth we can see literally hundreds of different products working together. The Grafische Informatik (GI) booth was a prime example, filled to the brim with everything from Mosaic to mixed-media robotics.

Of course, it was the robot that attracted everyone's attention. At any other heavy-manufacturing or industrial trade show, the Grau mixed-media storage system might have been lost in a sea of robots, but at a prepress show like IFRA, it stood out like an elephant at a dog show.

However, the story is not limited to the storage system. Credit must go to GI for assembling a comprehensive, provocative, image and document archive system. The multimedia server concept, called Xi, is sold as a complete hardware and software system. What was impressive was the maturity of the system in automating not only access to information but also long-term system management.

Xi includes, at the client level, an OSF/Motif user interface available for all platforms. The relational database is Oracle 7, running on a Sparcstation-20, but GI also supports Silicon Graphics and Cray computers. All of the hardware platforms can be configured with options to be connected to almost any lan or wan.

There may not be anything truly unique so far, but here it gets interesting.

The relational database is connected to a file management system called the UniTree Central File Manager, from Titan Storage Management Technologies. Titan has created a hierarchical file manager that performs

the data management functions to organize the data files on the mixed media.

The task. The Titan software automatically moves large data files to different media based on system-level parameters. Since opi has become prominent, this is a complex task. The goal is to optimize the accessibility of the various files (thumbnail, low-resolution and high-resolution versions) while minimizing long-term storage costs. Another factor in the decision to determine which media to store an item on is the probability that it will be called. In the news industry, this is done chronologically.

The most obvious schema for newspapers would be to store the last few days' data on magnetic disks at the server. After a couple of days, the high-resolution data could be moved to magneto-optical storage, while the low-resolution and thumbnail files remain on the system. After several more days, any files that haven't been accessed can have their high-resolution data moved to tape storage and low-resolution data moved to optical discs. The thumbnail files always remain on the system, along with database tables. Obviously this is only one possible scenario.

Features. Xi has included many other features, such as opi, database management, redundancy and full connectivity, that form what GI calls a "super server" approach.

GI has announced full support for Acrobat 2.0 as a document and newspaper page storage format. Acrobat might add several other possibilities to access and thus manage the data using a page as organizational unit.

Even eight-track tapes? Anyone who has used an 8" floppy disk knows that media types come and go faster than hemlines and lapel sizes. While the Xi system will connect to practically any optical jukebox or tape archive system, the option of using the Grau system offers several unique benefits. The Grau mixed-media robotics system is a unique approach to mass storage because it is media-independent. If you're building a digital archive system, it involves a long-term commitment to the media type you select. The obvious advantage of the Grau mixed-media approach is that you can theoretically phase in new formats and gracefully phase out old media types without much disruption to the operation.

The benefits of mixed media might range in importance depending on the size of the archive you're expecting to build. They are:

- \* Overall cheaper storage. Having several media formats gives you the ability to match the most cost-effective storage method to the different types of data stored in the system. A single-media system uses a middle-of-the-road approach. The mixed-media approach is more dynamic, giving the system a choice of moving data that are less likely to be accessed off to slower, cheaper formats.

- \* Minimal expansion costs. The Grau system theoretically grows more gracefully by adding media almost without limitation. Thus, the long-term storage costs appear to be lower than jukebox approaches, which run into limits and require additional jukeboxes at a significant incremental cost. A tradeoff that might be considered is the potentially higher maintenance costs of the robot.

- \* Lower conversion costs to new media. Mixed media can be viewed as a hedge against future storage-technology development. We believe that the term archive should imply forever, so long-term support should be important. While the initial investment costs of the Grau system might be higher, the longer-term costs of adding new storage technology and then antiquating older media storage systems are much lower for the Grau system than for single-media jukebox systems.

Retrieves like a Labrador. As robotics go, the Grau robot is relatively simple. It has the familiar arm with two fingers and an eye (a bar code reader) to select the correct disk or tape. The control computer always knows beforehand which media it has to retrieve, so it is prepared ahead of time with the "knowledge" required to find the tape, turn the fingers horizontally or vertically to pick up the media and then insert it into the proper drive.

The robot moves around three points in an area much like a well-



designed, triangular kitchen layout: the media shelves where the tapes and disks are stored; a bay with the necessary tape and disk drives; and a third point, where removable cassette racks allow humans to give tapes and disks safely to the robot.

The robot performs four functions: pull media from racks to put into drives, pull media out of drives to put back on racks, take media from humans to put on shelves, and pull media from shelves to give to humans.

If the storage shelves of media are not large enough for the database, the robot can be configured to move along a track to peruse a whole warehouse full of racks.

Busier than a one-armed paperhanger. Because the robot has only one hand, the access time for the data is dependent on three things: the number of requests, served sequentially; the speed of the media; and, for tape media, the location of the data on the tape. GI quoted a normal range of 1-3 minutes for tape retrieval, less than one minute for optical storage and seconds for online data.

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Titan Storage Management Technologies, 1380 Lawrence, Suite 500, Denver, CO 80204; phone (303) 573-5731, fax (303) 573-5816.

Hasselblad focuses on image hub

Hasselblad Electronic Imaging's main message was the effectiveness of its Image Depot system as the hub in a newspaper's image production workflow. The concept encompasses capturing remote images, image archiving and even getting images on the page. The version on display was 2.0.

The system includes built-in quality-control functions, which means there are no complicated settings for each image and it should result in fewer mistakes. Standard formats and interfaces for communications make the image flow efficient.

Image Depot, as we have described previously (see Vol. 22, No. 18), is a production server (not really an image archive) based on an Oracle database. Anyone in the process of buying a system for handling images should note this, especially when comparing other systems that are based on Macintosh or Windows servers.

Hasselblad uses different Sparcserver platforms for its system, depending mainly on the number of users and the activity in the system during production.

Images with iptc information, as well as additional customizable text information, can be imported automatically from Hasselblad units or other systems or image agencies.

Besides the usual features for searching and selecting images, Image Depot includes functions for cropping, sizing and rotating images and controlling color separation.

Image administration is improved by automatic functions for import-export, deletion and compression. The system, developed mainly for newspapers, can be configured and extended to store up to 150,000 images.

Integration with opi. Like many other vendors offering systems for handling images in production, Hasselblad has forgotten how important it is to offer good support for opi functions (or similar image-replacement facilities).

Until now, it has been necessary for the user to move a selected image manually from the Image Depot database to the opi system used. This must be done before placing the image on the page.

If the operator designing the page also selects the images, it should be possible for the operator to search the database, make a selection and place the image directly on the page from the database. This should be completely transparent, from within the page makeup application, without requiring any concern over moving the high-resolution image from the Image Depot database to the opi server.

After being asked by customers and potential prospects, Hasselblad has finally integrated opi with its system. That is, the opi functionality will coexist with the Image Depot database on the same server.

When it is up and running, this will make it much easier to search the

database, select an image and place it on a page.

Hasselblad hasn't disclosed the details regarding how various opi systems will be integrated into the Image Depot.

New for image export. A new feature in Image Depot is the possibility to rotate, crop, size and control the quality of an image before it is exported from the Image Depot database to the page (or to an opi server). As a result, the image will be resampled (up or down) at the appropriate rate for the image's final size on the page.

With this provision, it will be possible to have an image stored at a higher resolution than necessary in the Image Depot database, without having to overload the opi server or the rip with more image data than is necessary for the required screen frequency during page makeup and output.

Cd-rom storage. As with most so-called image archives today, Image Depot doesn't have a real solution for online, long-term archiving of high-resolution images. Even with a large number of high-capacity disks, it won't be possible to store enough images online to satisfy everyone.

In Hasselblad's case, this problem has been resolved with support for offline storage of compressed, high-resolution images on cds. The system also stores basic image information (text) with images.

To have as many high-resolution images available as possible, without manual intervention, Hasselblad has integrated a Kodak cd-rom jukebox with Image Depot.

With this system, there will always be **image** information (iptc) and a **thumbnail** version of the **image** stored online. The high-resolution **image** will be stored outside the online disk space.

When an image stored on a cd is required, the system will tell a user anywhere on the network which cd to install. Then, the system will automatically import the high-resolution image and store it under its original image reference in the database.

Image distribution. Another new feature with Image Depot enables distribution of images from the database to a specified user. This is especially helpful when Image Depot is installed at image or news agencies.

Images can be distributed to a specified user or newspaper or to a group of users or newspapers.

Image Retriever. As we have noted in earlier reports, to search the Image Depot database the user must have the Image Retriever client. Until now, the only clients were X Window Image Retriever clients running on Macintosh, Windows and Unix workstations.

Introduced this year was a real Macintosh client. Still under development, it is not expected to be available until year-end.

A new feature, available on the X Window clients, is the possibility to view the result of a search in a mosaic of 20 image thumbnails or a list of image text references. Earlier, it was possible to view only five image thumbnails and a preview image at a time.

Pixelo. Pixelo, a software package that can be installed in a laptop or a desktop pc, includes features for scanning and editing **images**, plus adding iptc information. The software includes routines for **transmitting images** (drag and drop), with compression, from a remote site to a newspaper's editorial or **photo** department. It is notable that all the above functions can be performed at the same time.

Scanners supported include the Nikon Coolscan, Agfa Arcus, Kodak RFS 2035 Plus and the new Polaroid SprintScan 35. (The last three are new since last year.)

Images scanned into Pixelo are stored in tiff format on a local disk or network storage. Images are compressed using jpeg. Transmission uses dit 3.2 or Zmodem protocol.

The software includes automatic calibration to produce the highest possible quality without much user interference.

A new feature this year is the possibility to open pictures directly in Photoshop, an easy switch from Pixelo for image editing.

Twinscan. Hasselblad markets a special version of Pixelo, called Twinscan, which includes one or two Coolscan scanners. As both scanners can work simultaneously, it is a productive workstation for a user **sending images** from a last-minute event.

**Image Basket.** **Image Basket**, which has been part of the Hasselblad product line for as long as we can remember, is still being improved. New this year were facilities for receiving AP wires by satellite, **images** from the Spanish news agency EFE, and graphic files and text **transmitted** over PhotoNet.

Also new are the abilities to handle both tiff and iptc **images** and to output **images** in black and white or color to local or networked PostScript printers (a maximum of ten printers). Finally, **Image Basket** can automatically **send** to up to ten predefined destinations for each channel.

**New Image Receiver.** Although it wasn't announced officially at the show, Hasselblad is getting ready to introduce a new image receiver on December 1. To be given the imaginative name Image Receiver, it will work on the same platform as today's Image Basket. But it will be solely a "blackbox" reception unit, including software that will convert received images to standard formats, including the iptc header, and forward the image to Image Depot.

**Image Tuner.** The **Image Tuner** also continues to be enhanced. This year, additions are functions for quality detection, automatic sharpening, contrast, rotation and resizing. Together, they enable an advanced sorting and automatic **sending** facility for **images** going to other units on the network. Hasselblad claims that the new functions will increase productivity.

Also new is jpeg compression of images before export.

**Color management.** Hasselblad announced that Color Flow Management software can be installed in the Image Tuner and the Image Depot. After the user calibrates the system once, images should automatically be corrected in the background, prior to being exported for page makeup and printing.

Hyphen shows Newsware

We've covered previously the Newsware development from Iota Industries of Israel, but because it is such an interesting application of technology, we want to summarize it in this section reflecting the current state of the retrieval business.

Newsware scans newspaper pages and stores characters, words and phrases in a database as graphic objects, not as words. The shapes are indexed for retrieval later in response to Boolean search arguments.

The page retains its identity as a newspaper page. The user can read the paper like a newspaper, with the aid of a fast zoom and pan scrolling, or he can search the database and locate terms or images within the paper and see them displayed in wysiwyg mode.

Because it works with graphics, not font characters, it finds shapes conforming to word shapes in areas of the paper besides the text -- such as logos. Also, it doesn't have to learn new fonts.

Newsware creates a database for filing and cataloging newspaper sections, pages, images, etc. It enables a librarian to select stories or images on a page and to catalog them with keywords. They then become searchable using the text retrieval facilities.

A toolbox supports cutting sections from a page, highlighting, adding remarks (text, voice or even video), marking areas and providing links from one item to another.

Newsware opens the possibilities of archiving existing newspaper-clipping libraries that are held either as hard copy or as microfilm. These items can be cataloged and then accessed by a newspaper's editorial and library staffs.

The system compresses data at a high ratio to enable large libraries to be stored relatively economically. This functionality means that a newspaper can retrospectively archive its materials for full-text and image retrieval, where the stories are viewed in context and wysiwyg form, without the data having first to be in a digital format.

The system is pc-based and runs on a Novell network with file handling using Novell Btrieve.

ITN plans world news photo service

Independent Television News (ITN) of the UK, appearing in the ND Comtec booth, outlined its plans to offer a new image service called ITN

Image Line. It will be a dial-up service using isdn lines to access near-photographic-quality images of UK and world news events and features. ITN says the service will use special **digitizing** techniques that allow **images** to be taken from news video footage and achieve higher quality than has been available in the past. The quality will be good enough to allow newspaper picture editors to use the images for high-caliber print production, ITN claims.

The service will use the Phrasea database and deliver files in compressed pict format. In addition to ITN data, it will have access to images from the worldwide video coverage of NBC news from the U.S. Images to be used will be selected and updated by a team that will scan the footage of ITN's and NBC's news-gathering units.

ITN anticipates providing new images at about the same time as the stories are broadcast. The plan is to add between 30 and 40 images per day, or about 10,000 per year. They will be added to the archive accessible with the service.

Image quality. ITN said that the quality of images will be high because the data that make up each image are taken directly from broadcast-specification videotape at any stage of its processing through the television chain. At this point, it will still be possible to use digital techniques to remove some of the normal tv artifacts.

Inline adds 10 sites with archive systems

Inline Softwaretechnik, the German company that got into the wire-photo receiving business before 1990 and added an archival system at IFRA a year ago, reported gaining ten new customers for the archival system.

The archival system, which runs under os/2, uses optical-disc jukeboxes for storage and takes advantage of os/2's multiprocessing capabilities. Because it is available in many different configurations, pricing is complicated. However, Inline said it typically costs between DM1 and DM1.50 per picture stored. That means that a system for 100,000 pictures would cost around DM120,000 to DM140,000.

Inline also offers a picture-desk system, with good image-editing features, that costs DM30,000, including hardware and software.

Job archives based on TRIP

Founded in 1990, Job is a Stockholm-based Swedish system integrator and software developer that specializes in putting together digital archives for newspapers. Its products, called the NewsLink line, include archive software for images and text, with support for ads, logos and graphics currently in development.

All of the NewsLink archiving software modules are based on TRIP, the full-text retrieval engine from PSI (see coverage below). However, whereas PSI has used its own software to put together integrated, multimedia databases, Job has created three separate modules. Job resells TRIP with its own software configured to run on any Unix server, but it prefers IBM or Sun hardware. Clients are typically Macintosh workstations. A Windows client is in development.

Text Archive. The most advanced of these -- i.e., furthest in development -- is NewsLink Text Archive, designed to store text articles and low-resolution page images from Xpress. Job has even written a Quark Xtension that uses the individual block-style information contained in an Xpress document to load data into fields automatically. This would be a handy Xtension for anyone archiving content out of Xpress pages. (For more information on Job, see Vol. 22, No. 12.)

Image Archive. NewsLink Image Archive manages low-resolution versions of graphics files and associated data. The low-resolution versions have pointers to high-resolution files stored peripherally to the database. The Image Archive is also sold to prepress production services and can function in an opi environment in conjunction with Helios opi.

Image Archive includes many expected features, such as the ability to create subdatabases (projects), multiple views of the database, including thumbnails, previews and full record views, and programmable fields that are customizable by each site.

Advertising Archive. A third archive module the company is developing is called NewsLink Advertising Archive, designed for managing a database of

electronic ads, logos, graphics and associated materials. Three companies are cooperating on the development of this project. Their principal goal is the storage, retrieval and electronic delivery of digital ads and their corresponding components. This software is currently installed at one beta site. Job plans to deliver it before the end of this year.

Database issue. While we liked many aspects of Job's implementation -- the ability to save searches right on the desktop as icons, for example, and the ability to search within a search to narrow in on the target -- we came away wondering why the company continues to develop separate databases for text, images and ads. We've noticed a strong industry trend, particularly at this year's IFRA show, in the other direction -- multimedia databases and archives.

Moreover, we wondered if it wouldn't be more desirable in fast-paced newspaper environments to have a single client software package that could access all three databases, rather than having to install, learn, train and support three different client packages.

New customers. Just prior to IFRA, Job announced its largest digital archive customer to date: the John Fairfax Group of Australia. Its initial order with Job is valued at approximately four million Swedish crowns (although, when all phases of the installation are complete, the system will have more than 1,000 users and a value of 15 million Swedish crowns).

Earlier Job customers are mostly in Sweden (there is actually one site each in France and Belgium), including the newspapers Svenska Dagbladet, Goteborgsposten and Arbetet, and corporate customers including ABB-Asea Brown Boveri, Sandvik and Telia (the Swedish PTT).

Job claims a total of 20 customers in all.

Meltek: Worldview for newspapers?

Meltek Computer GmbH is a hardware and software reseller and system integrator with offices around the world (in Germany, the UK, France, the Netherlands, Australia and the U.S.).

Traditionally it has been most actively involved in the long-document market -- i.e., in integrating systems for companies and institutions producing corporate and technical documentation that is delivered both on paper and electronically. Hence, it has gotten involved not only with page production but also with document and database management, which led it to develop and manage electronic archives. That's why it appeared at IFRA -- showing Interleaf Worldview as a window into a newspaper library-archive system. (Unfortunately, the software wasn't running during our visit to the booth.)

The advantage of Worldview, of course, is that not only can it be used to access an online archive, but also newspapers can include the viewer, replete with full-text search-retrieval capabilities from Fulcrum, along with archival data they sell on cd-rom.

Parentheses shows new version of Phrasea

While in the ND Comtec booth, we stopped to talk with MacVonk-Parenthesis, the marketing organization for the French company B&L Parentheses and the Phrasea image archiving system. At the show, Parenthesis introduced a new version of Phrasea.

Because of the interest it created at the show, and the resulting difficulties getting time to spend looking at the product, we said we'd be willing to settle for an evaluation copy to document the new features. We haven't received the copy yet, so we can't report our findings. But as soon as it does, we will finish our story.

New in version 3 is support for scripting and multiple databases, which enables users to search multiple databases with a single query.

New customers. We were also informed of some interesting new customers for Phrasea.

One company that has signed up with ND Comtec to use Phrasea is Camera Press, one of the world's leading photo agencies, founded in 1947. Camera Press has a vast range of quality images that span more than a century. In the company's picture library are more than 10 million color and black-and-white images.

Camera Press is supplied by an international network of photographers, covering major news events, human-interest stories, celebrities, the

performing arts from ballet to rock, beauty and fashion, travel, wildlife and humor.

As we understand it, Camera Press intends to make some of its images available through Phrasea. Technical details about the installation were not disclosed at IFRA.

Another interesting customer, already noted above, is Independent Television News Ltd. of the UK. ITN is starting a new service, to be launched in January, using the Phrasea database. It expects to add 30 to 40 new images daily, as well as graphics, from news events and features.

The new service will be operated from ITN's headquarters in London's Gray's Inn Road, where the database continually will be updated by a team scanning footage of ITN's and NBC's news- gathering units. The selected images and graphics will be saved in a Phrasea image archiving system, which will be available for newspapers through a dial-up service.

Since the images will be based in Phrasea, it will be possible to save them for at least a couple of years online.

Price. Although we didn't get the software, we did get the latest prices.

Each Phrasea client costs \$750. Server software adds \$2,500, and administrator software costs \$2,000.

If Phrasea is to be used with remote communication facilities, there is also a communications package for \$1,550 (only one copy is needed, installed with the client).

Protec Arcano for online, CD-ROM service

Protec is leveraging Arcano, its strong database product, to provide search-and-retrieval support to tasks such as desktop applications and digital media services. Now available as a Quark Xtension, Arcano was being used in conjunction with a cd-rom and online service product. It is interesting to see the same tool used for prepress and consumer use.

The client software isn't as smooth as Picture Network International's. (Whose is?) But it may be reasonable to use Arcano for the more tolerant early adopters of online services. (It can't be worse than the Internet.)

Although we feel that the client software may have been a bit complicated for consumers, Protec did not foresee making many changes for this application. With that said, Arcano does offer many features that many search engines do not, such as filtering on a range of dates and context sensitivity to indicate when a hit fell in a headline or a caption.

Arcano attempts to rate probability using a bar graph displaying a frequency histogram ranking the number of hits. Clicking on a tall bar -- the highest number of hits in the story -- brings up that story. Arcano also does a nice job of linking elements like pictures and stories in the database. But all of these nice features are watered down by the fact that only one word is available for full-text searching.

Display formats. The online and cd-rom demonstrations in the booth were impressive.

Arcano offers several formats to display the story after it is selected:

- \* A monospaced, ascii display.
- \* A graphic format with pictures optimized for display on a computer monitor.
- \* The page image, displayed as a bitmap, looking exactly as it appeared in the newspaper.
- \* A layout optimized for laser printers.

Xtensions. Protec believes Arcano would be useful to newspapers using desktop applications. To address this potential market, it has developed a set of Xtensions that allow Xpress users to take full advantage of the Arcano database. These will be available next month.

PSI shows TRIP engine and applications

The Communication and Information Systems division of PSI -- an international holding company with multiple divisions in Europe and one (TRIP Systems) in the U.S. -- provides custom software development and system integration services in a variety of areas, including document management, mobile communications, network management, environmental

protection and quality management. The focus of its document management department is on a product called TRIP -- Text Retrieval and Information Product -- a database engine that can handle both structured and unstructured information and is designed to handle very large volumes of documents.

TRIP is particularly popular in Europe. Both the text and image archiving modules we saw in the Job booth at IFRA use the TRIP engine. Digital Equipment in the UK uses TRIP as the basis of a picture library, we were told.

In all, PSI claims that TRIP is being used in document management environments at more than 400 sites in 24 countries. These include several large magazines and newspapers in Germany and Austria. (For more information on TRIP, see Vol. 22, No. 13.)

TRIP typically is configured following a client-server model. Clients can be pcs (dos or Windows) or OSF/Motif workstations. Servers are Unix devices. The client user interface is fully configurable, and apis make it possible for third parties to integrate TRIP with word processors or other systems.

TRIP can accommodate text and image files as well as video and sound. Large systems can provide multiple TRIP databases with cross-search capabilities.

Search features. The most distinctive of TRIP's capabilities are its search functions. The user interface and search form are determined by the individual site, so we can't describe their appearance. However, search functions include:

- \* User-tunable fuzzy logic.
- \* Full-text searches with Boolean or non-Boolean logic and relevance ranking.
- \* Searches on keywords in text and fielded data.
- \* Linguistic-phonetic capabilities.
- \* Use of truncated words.
- \* Thesaurus -- one or more active at one time per database.

As we received our demo, we noticed several others going on simultaneously. One was a real-estate database application on cd-rom, developed by the U.S. company, TRIP Systems, of Monroe, CT. Unlike some other databases (such as the one Digital Collections uses), the TRIP database and kernel, as well as search data from an authoring system, can be copied to cd-rom.

Pricing for TRIP begins in the DM50,000 range. TSI in the U.S. also offers a package called TRIPcdr, consisting of an application builder, the search engine and an installation script builder for copying databases and delivering them on cd-rom. Interestingly, these databases are transparently interchangeable with their host-based equivalents.

Ratio Entwicklungen starts with print

Ratio Entwicklungen supplies equipment used to build a newspaper archive from source material -- that is, by scanning the printed newspaper and entering keywords manually into a database. That may not sound like a very high-tech approach to the problem (believe it or not, 28 of the company's 30 employees work in r&d), or like a very exciting operation to study. But it seems to have been successful in the market.

Ratio claims to have installed a total of 60 systems worldwide, of which 30 use Ratio's own A2 scanner (see below) and the rest use other scanners. One of the users is Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung, which has a full-text archiving system, based on the TRIP full-text database engine, connected to the Ratio system.

Another customer is John Fairfax & Son in Australia, which also is connected to a TRIP full-text database. This installation is under way, being done in cooperation with the Swedish system integrator Job Systemintegration.

With that backdrop, we thought it would be worth looking at the system.

The process. The process starts by scanning the newspaper and creating page image files. Ratio has its own flatbed ccd scanner, which operates at 200 or 300 dpi, 64 levels of gray, on documents measuring up to 16.5"x23.4"

(420x594mm). It has a glass cover that helps to flatten parts of the paper that may have been folded or otherwise physically abused. It takes about four seconds to scan an A2 page at 200 dpi.

Using some of Ratio's proprietary software, the system automatically scales the page image to fit on an A4 sheet. With that page image the operator can store keywords to identify the key elements in the document. Together those are stored in the database, which Ratio calls the Newsbase. As we understand it, this database doesn't include any text except keywords entered manually.

At this point, depending on how many keywords have been entered, the database could have value as a collection of images, searchable by keywords. The search is fast, resulting in a display of pages on the monitor.

But it is possible to go a step further and use Ratio's ocr software to convert portions of text to ascii for use as electronic files. Conversion can be done on a batch basis. We haven't had a chance to check the quality of ocr to see how much correcting would have to be done or what happens to words the program can't figure out. The software reportedly has some special features to handle different typography, but we didn't get an explanation of how it works.

Going beyond simple ocr conversion, some of Ratio's customers, including those mentioned above, take the ascii text and feed it to a full-text archiving system, where it becomes available for a wide variety of uses.

Ratio's suite of software also enables page **images** or article text to be printed, faxed or **transmitted** via isdn lines.

The software currently runs only under dos, but Ratio said an nt version will be ready by next March.

Ratio was founded in 1986 by Peter Priesz, who remains the president and owner.

Reuters focuses on digital graphics

Reuters featured a full selection of the subscription services this news company offers to its worldwide customer base. These include news graphics, pictures and text delivered via the company's satellite multimedia data network, as well as access to individual pictures in its recently established Photobase archive located in Paris.

New is the ability to receive all of the company's satellite services in a single data stream (for all or just specific services the site subscribes to) and the ability to browse satellite images on either Macs or pcs with any of a variety of off-the-shelf image browser software modules. Reuters is now offering what it calls an "open data stream," accessible via a variety of third-party software modules. Several of these modules were demonstrated, including ImageBrowser, from Cabria Software of the Czech Republic, and Phrased, which is the software Reuters clients can use for accessing its color Photobase archive in Paris.

Up and away with the Multicontributor interface. Reuters has developed a way for its business partners -- e.g., smaller picture agencies and subscriber publishers with photographic staff in the field -- to deliver materials to remote locations using the Reuters satellite delivery system.

In demonstrating this capability -- prosaically called "the Multicontributor Interface" -- a Reuters staff person took a picture using a Kodak DCS 420 digital camera and brought it into a Mac using Apple's PhotoFlash software. We first reviewed the low-resolution version of this image, then imported the high-resolution version from the hard disk in the camera using jpeg to compress the image. Then we wrote it to disk in the Mac.

The Mac in the booth was connected directly via a leased line (alternatively, it could have been an isdn or a modem line) to the Multicontributor Interface (MCI) pc in the Reuters London data center. This pc currently has 16 input ports for simultaneous access. It outputs directly to the Reuters satellite uplink. Transmission speed depends on the leased line. The maximum is 57.6 kilobits for reception in London.

Before **sending** the file, we created an iptc header to append to the **image** using Reuters-supplied Encapsulator software (available for both the



Mac and the pc). We also added the address of the intended receiving location -- a workstation in Hall 1 of the Messegelände in Munich. We then proceeded to **transmit** the **image** to London, where it was uplinked to the satellite, added to the satellite data stream, **transmitted** to a dish on the roof of Hall 1 and received at a Tecnavia Picture Desk next to the Mac in the booth.

The Tecnavia software decompressed the file and added it to its database so we could browse it and ensure it was the same one we had sent via London.

This service is designed for use in Europe; no firm decisions have been made yet about pricing or marketing it outside Europe. IFRA marked the first demo of the released version of the MCI software. Eventually, the intent is to make the MCI service available to subscribers instead of existing communications links that currently require reception of remotely transmitted pictures at a picture desk.

As a faster and more efficient alternative, the MCI allows direct, automated communications from a digital camera or scanner and laptop combination in the field to a computer and then direct to the satellite. Transmissions can be addressed to any single client or group of clients on the receiving end.

Schopf enhances MediaBase, Watchman

As it did last year, Schopf Software showed MediaBase -- its image and logo management software -- and a companion product called Watchman, which watches queues for files and applies processing scripts to them.

MediaBase is now at version 4.0. This latest version supports a wider range of file formats, including jpeg, eps, pcx, Targa, dcx, gif and Windows Metafile. Earlier versions of the program only supported tiff or bitmap files. Also new is the ability to print an image and specify that it be output at either its original resolution or at proof resolution. Proof output is extracted from the original at about 32 dpi, or 60-kb files.

A third enhancement provides additional ways to group and arrange data; it is now possible to arrange files by category and print them in this grouping. One competitive feature the company has not added, but which is handy in the newspaper image management field, is the automatic ability to read and load iptc headers into data fields from **images** coming into the system from **digital** picture services, etc.

Watchman has been enhanced so it now has an opi option. It monitors queues for PostScript files with opi tags embedded and swaps the high-resolution file into the page at output time.

Price increases. Along with the enhancements to the MediaBase in version 4.0 have come price increases (since last year's IFRA). MediaBase now costs DM11,450 for five users, DM15,800 for ten users, DM23,800 for 20 users and DM47,600 for a 50-user system. Watchman is now priced at DM6,550.

Televisual Data builds library system

Televisual Data Limited is an 18-month-old start-up company based in Sandbank, UK, in the highlands of Scotland. It was founded by Alan Gibson, formerly of Scitex Europe. Tucked away in this seemingly remote corner of the world, the company started with a charter to leverage a skilled but relatively inexpensive local labor force and the latest computer technology to provide high-volume clipping and scanning services to help newspapers moving from paper-based to digital archives -- work that can be done nearly anywhere.

One big project the company successfully undertook was data conversion for the recent Daily Mirror switch to a digital library system. Interestingly, the 16-person company may be located far from the main action of its customer base, but these customers can have full access to their database, even as it is being built, because of the availability of isdn-based communications. Wouldn't it be convenient to have the same in Vermont?

In the process of developing the database conversion side of its business (it has done conversions for the Scotsman and the Scottish Daily Record), Televisual Data also developed its own multimedia database management system, which includes both full-text storage and retrieval capabilities and fielded data classifications. The next logical step was to

bring to market the product, now called the Library Solution.

Library Solution. The Library Solution provides a client-server architecture based on Sun servers. Both Windows and Mac clients can access the database over standard networks. It can be equipped with a wide variety of on- and offline storage devices, including cd-rom jukeboxes.

Data can enter the archive from editorial systems, picture desks, clippings, photographic prints and similar hard copy scanned into the system. Scanned material can be treated as facsimile images and classified by subject matter, or it can be processed with ocr software into searchable text. In operation, the library can be connected to a prepress system that it can poll periodically for fresh images to add to the archive. Text can flow directly into the system from an editorial front end.

The heart of the software is a full-text search engine that can search for text in text files or associated with picture data. All data entering the archive are automatically indexed and merged with the main index on the server. Images can be saved independently or associated with a text file. Three resolutions of pictures are saved in the database: thumbnail, catalog and full-resolution (the latter is typically stored on a cd-rom). Caption data associated with images are automatically added to the record, although additional manual captioning may also be required. The same goes for scanned clippings and page images.

Client software for Windows and the Mac is used to search the database. As expected, frequently used searches can be stored for reuse. It is also possible to save sets of retrieved objects --text and images -- as projects. The intent of the search features in the client software is ease of use so that anyone in a rush in a newspaper environment can quickly find the required data without learning complex commands or software.

We were particularly impressed with the simplicity of the approach, although we didn't spend enough time with the system to comment on the efficiency of the search engine compared with its simplicity.

The Library Solution pricing starts at just under Pound sterling 30,000 for a Sparcstation-20 server, one dedicated librarian workstation (a high-performance pc) and a software license for five concurrent users. Additional user licenses are Pound sterling 49. Televisual Data also performs conversions. It charges about Pound sterling 20,000 to scan, caption and populate a database of 20,000 pictures.

URW archives logos

Besides its work on the creative side, discussed earlier, URW demonstrated the Graphik Archiv database management tool. It was designed to manage libraries of graphics and logos in URW's Ikarus as well as in tiff and eps formats. Based on a proprietary database manager, the library software is intended to provide cross-platform access and supports Mac, Windows and os/2 clients.

Graphik Archiv is installed at three sites in Germany. One is being used in conjunction with a Linotype-Hell LinoPress configuration. Another uses a Cicero system. The third serves as a stand-alone library. As we understand it, the company has no plans to sell this software in the U.S.

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SPECIAL FEATURES: illustration; other

DESCRIPTORS: Trade Show; Product Description Specification; Newspaper Industry Software; Market Trend Market Analysis; Industry Trend; Conferences and Meetings

TRADE NAMES: Microsoft Windows (GUI)--Usage

FILE SEGMENT: CD File 275

... Partner for ad and page planning, Hasselblad for picture wire services, URW for logotype generation, **Digital** Collections for text and **image** archiving, and GFI for commercial edp. The company emphasized that the partnerships aren't limited...between ads, and creates a final page file that can be sent to a proof **printer** or an imagesetter from the VIP Classix workstation.

VIP Classix was developed at VTT in...g., iptc header information for news pictures, the system also includes routines to generate both

**thumbnail images** (used during search and retrieval) and **screen-resolution images** (used during ad and page makeup).

As with the ComText subsystem, ComPict includes both static...to images.

Shot uses the same five-window Scoop sequence of actions, but it shows **image** thumbnails in window three. A click on the **thumbnail** brings up a preview in window five. A click on the preview then brings up...Avantra 25, the AccuSet 1000, the Cobra rip, CristalRaster screening and the XC315 color copier- **printer**.

Autologic focuses on fax, plate systems

Autologic noted that it had installed its first APS...

...exactly how the job will look, displayed on a color monitor or output on a **printer**.

The system. The Rip Proofer consists of the **Image** Builder PC, the Visualizer monitor and the FXL 50 connection. For the monitor, Parascan offers...a large, high-resolution monitor, the page can be output to a monochrome or color **printer**.

Interfaces are available to connect the Rip Proofer to systems from Agfa, Autologic, Canon, Crosfield...

...although the newspaper design normally is based on the actual ad and editorial bookings.

In **order** to handle this, the **Printa** system can supply the prepress system with information about approved newspaper configurations (number of pages...kroner.

Inline transmits pages with PageLine

Inline offered no new features for its picture desks, **image** -editing workstations or archiving systems, but it did bring a new system for transmission of...

...for printing later. In part, the options depend on what equipment is used on the **sending** and receiving sides.

Because components of a page can be transmitted separately, it is not ...that the former wire-service companies and electronic libraries do. So it includes systems for **transmitting** and receiving wire **photos** and text, systems for storing and retrieving text and **images**, and products related to any of those topics. IFRA provided a good chance to see... configured with the 4D database engine. Each remote site will have a decoder pc, a **printer** and a network gateway.

AFP plans to conduct beta testing before the end of the...engine, which allows full- screen browsing of structured fields as well as text files. A **thumbnail** browser for viewing multiple tiff **images** at a time is also available.

The system architecture is based on a ...a given topic --similar to the linking we are used to with Mosaic on the **WWW** -- but this capability isn't available yet. We also think the database and search-retrieval...

...online by the database.

A complementary module for wire-service picture management, called PictureDesk, handles **images** from sources as diverse as **digital** wire services, **digital** cameras, Kodak **Photo** CD, etc. Iptc header information **transmitted** with pictures by digital wire services is automatically indexed for retrieval. Additional descriptive data for...with MAPS Tools). In the near future, the company plans to give away, on the **Internet**, a low-end version of the Browser. Both the Browser and Tools modules are currently...a Kodak cd- rom jukebox with Image Depot.

With this system, there will always be **image** information (iptc) and a **thumbnail** version of the **image** stored online. The high-resolution **image** will be stored outside the online disk space.

When an image stored on a cd features for scanning and editing **images**, plus adding iptc information. The software includes routines for **transmitting images** (drag and drop), with compression, from a remote site to a newspaper's editorial or **photo** department. It is notable that